

Series: Psalms of Summer (2023)

Message: Psalm 34

- 1. Icebreaker: What is your favorite psalm or verse from the book of Psalms?
- 2. What is the background and context of David writing this psalm (1 Samuel 21)?
- 3. Read Psalm 34:1-3.
 - a. Why are joyful experiences in life better when shared (movies/sports/church)? How does our joy in the Lord fuel each other as the body of Christ?
- 4. Read Psalm 34:4-7.
 - a. How does God acting and answering our prayers lead to our praise?
 - b. When it comes to God saving us (from our situations and our sins), why is it important that we remember that we are "poor" like David did?
 - c. According to Verse 5, how does God's work in our lives even change our demeanor?
 - d. How does Verse 7 provide encouragement for those who follow the Lord?
- 5. Read Psalm 34:8-10.
 - a. What is significant about David's word choice of "taste" versus the other four senses? How is the heart behind this statement similar to food samples given out at stores?
 - b. What do most Christians only experience the goodness and blessings of God secondhand?
 - c. What is something risky (past or present) that God is asking you to trust him in so that you may taste his goodness?
- 6. Read Psalm 34:11-14.
 - a. How do you define "the fear of the Lord"? How does this fear motivate the way we live?
 - b. In its simplest form, how do David's instructions to "turn from evil and do good" summarize what it means to fear God? Why are David's negative and positive examples of fearing God in Verses 13-14 important?
- 7. Read Psalm 34:15-22
 - a. What does David say will happen to the wicked who don't fear God? What is eye-opening about this statement to you?
 - b. Which of the specific statements in these verses regarding the special attention God gives to the righteous stands out most to you?
 - c. Why must we remember that this is not a promise that you will never have trouble in life?
 - d. Why must we remember that this is not a promise that you will never sin in life? How does 1 John 2:1-2 provide more clarity to how our righteousness is achieved?
 - e. How does Romans 8:1, 38-39 provide additional hope for any condemnation and separation from God that we may feel in life?