



Community Group Discussion Guide
"Courage to Learn from Our Errors" – 1 Samuel 21 & Psalm 34
Scott Paulson – October 11, 2026

Main thought:

Courage means learning from our failures by turning from fear and renewing our trust in God.

Ice-Breaker

- What's a mistake you've made that taught you a lesson you'll never forget?

Questions

1. What stood out to you from the message this week?
2. David demonstrated tremendous courage when he faced Goliath, but later allowed fear to control his decisions. Why do you think we can trust God courageously in one season of life, but struggle to trust Him in another? Have you experienced this?
3. Fear caused David to lie, run, hide, and make decisions he later regretted. What are some ways fear influences our decisions or causes us to compromise what we know is right? Why is it sometimes difficult to recognize the fear underneath our behavior?
4. David spent much of his time trying to protect himself rather than trusting God. In Psalm 34:8, he invites us to "Taste and see that the Lord is good" and take refuge in Him. Where do people commonly look for security or refuge instead of turning to God? How can we recognize when we're doing the same?
5. David didn't allow his failures to become the end of his story. Why do you think we sometimes struggle to move beyond our mistakes, even after we've acknowledged them and received God's forgiveness? What is the difference between learning from our failures and allowing them to define us?
6. Psalm 34:18 reminds us that "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." How does this promise encourage you when you're facing the consequences of your own mistakes or walking through a difficult season? Can you share a time when you experienced God's faithfulness despite your failures?
7. Which of these four principles for learning from our errors is most important for you right now?
 - a. Identify your fears.
 - b. Refocus your trust.
 - c. Remember God's faithfulness.
 - d. Don't let your failure define you.

Prayer: Take some time to pray for each other.