



Small Group Study Guide for September 10, 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: God Is Close to the Brokenhearted. Sometimes we feel trapped like we have nowhere to go. We can always turn to the Lord, who draws us close to His grace and mercy. He rescues us and releases us for His service.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. A bad storm swept through our area on August 24. Many lost power, including OSL. What are some of the first things you do or think about when you lose power at your place, whenever that happens?
2. What examples of “neighborliness” and helping others did you experience, see, or hear about in the aftermath of the storm?

In the Word: Read Psalm 34 aloud. Have people read 3-4 verses at a time.

3. Have each person mark three verses in this Psalm that stood out to them. Share what verses they were and why they struck you as they did.
4. Read **1 Samuel 21:10-15** for the background to this Psalm. Note: Abimelech is called “Achish” in 1 Samuel. ‘Abimelech’ may have been a dynasty or royal title. David was running for his life from Saul, who was trying to kill David. He went to Goliath’s home town, but people recognized him. Note what they referred to David as in verse 11? Why would that make David tremble and find a way to escape?
5. As David was on the run from place to place, one thing after another, he had this unwavering constant faith that God would rescue him and redeem him. What are the key verses in Psalm 34 that speak of God’s rescue, protection, and deliverance? Write the references here below.

6. David's prayers and psalms were a foreshadowing of the ultimate 'anointed one' – Jesus. In fact, many of David's prayers and psalms can be read as if Jesus was speaking. Look at the psalm again, and this time, look for words or phrases could be understood as if Jesus prayed them – in praise to the Father after Jesus' resurrection from the dead (note especially verse 20). Discuss them together.

7. Psalm 34 contains "wisdom sayings," similar to what we see in other psalms and especially in Proverbs. What verses are giving advice on how to live a godly life, and passing on "wisdom"?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. Share with your group a time when you went through something difficult, and you had to lean on the Lord to see you through. How did that inspire praise and thanksgiving towards God?

9. This Psalm encourages others to join in David's praise and thanksgiving. God's work in our life (or anything good in our lives, for that matter) often prompt us to tell others and share the joy with them. How do Christians 'share the joy' with others, and invite them to join in praise and thanksgiving to God?

10. "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (verse 18) How does this promise from God's Word bring you comfort and hope?

Prayer: Psalm 34 is an acrostic poem. Each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. For your prayer time, try an acrostic prayer. Pray petitions that either begin with or have their key word with the following letters. A – B – C.

Next Week: We begin our Spiritual Growth Campaign looking at 5 practices of Spiritual Growth. We start off with Radical Hospitality that reflects how God has welcomed us in Christ.

Note: Small Group Study Guides for September 17 – October 15 will be in one booklet, and have accompanying teaching videos. Learn more at the Spiritual Growth Campaign table in the church lobby or contact Dave Wright for details.