

LESSON 19

THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD

Psalm 33

- ¹Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
- ²Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
- ³Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
- ⁴For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
- ⁵He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
- ⁶By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
- ⁷He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
he puts the deeps in storehouses.
- ⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
- ⁹For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- ¹⁰The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
- ¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.
- ¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
- ¹³The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
- ¹⁴ from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
- ¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

- ¹⁶The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
- ¹⁷The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.
- ¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.
- ²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
- ²¹For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
- ²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

WELCOME: *Fixing Our Focus*

Ask the members of the group to look back in their life and remember an incident in their life that made them want to shout in praise to God. Ask them to share the incident to the group and why that incident made them want to praise God.

WORSHIP: *Adoring Our God*

Suggested songs:

For the Lord is Good (Ron Kenoly song)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty by Joachim Neander

WORD: *Understanding the Word*

Lesson Aim: Members will be able to list ways that will help them remember to daily praise God for his steadfast love.

Introduction

Giving worship to God individually is as important as worshipping him communally. Coming together as God's family and sharing with each other our journeys with God help us, not only to lighten our burdens but also to be reminded of the many things we can praise him for.

Psalm 33 is considered a continuation of Psalm 32 as it picks up from the command in 32:11 for the “righteous and the upright to be glad in the Lord, rejoice and shout for joy.” Structurally, the psalm is seen to have a cyclical pattern where each generation is encouraged to praise the Lord for his past and present acts of love.

Leader: Lead in reading Psalm 33 aloud together. Then read the paragraph on the “Key Verse.”

Key Verse: Psalm 33 starts with a great encouragement for the congregation to “Shout for joy in the LORD” (*v. 1*) which sets whole its theme: a jubilant thanksgiving to the only faithful, reliable, and loving God.

Psalm 33:1-3. Theme: _____

1. How is the psalmist encouraging the community to praise the Lord? List and explain the various ways he told them to do so.
2. Describe the people in this community.
3. What is the *new* song that they are to sing to the Lord? Where will it come from?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 1-3.

Psalm 33:4-11. Theme: _____

Underline the words and ideas that speak about God’s nature – his word, rule, and purposes.

4. Discuss how the following three things about the Lord give the congregation reasons to praise him.
 - The Lord’s nature (*vv. 4-5*)

- The Lord’s word and creation (*vv. 6-9*)
- The Lord’s rule and purposes (*vv. 10-11*)

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 1-3.

Psalm 33:12-19. Theme: _____

The psalmist had laid down before the congregation that God is the Ruler-Creator who is worthy of their praise. He then moves to God’s involvement with his people that they would put their trust in him.

5. According to the psalmist, why was Israel considered blessed? What events in history support this blessedness? What other Bible passages support that Israel is God’s appointed inheritance?
6. According to verses 13-15, is God’s love and attention limited only to the people of Israel? Explain your answer. What does this say about the nature and activity of God?
7. Compare false hope and true hope (*vv. 16-19*).

<i>False Hope</i>	<i>True Hope</i>

What truth can you get from this comparison?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 12-19.

Psalm 33:20-22. Theme: _____

9. In response to what they learned about the greatness of God, how did the people express their affirmation of their trust in the Lord?

10. How does this communal affirmation affect the worship and relationship of the people to God?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 20-22.

WALK: *Applying the Word*

Questions for Adults

1. What “new” acts of God in your life have shown you his nature, his character, his rule, and his purposes? Do you share these when you gather with your Growth Group or other fellow GCFers?
2. In what practical ways can you be reminded of the reasons to praise the Lord and trust him in every circumstance of your life (i.e. keeping a daily journal of his blessings and help, regular sharing of praise items during Growth Group meetings, etc.)?
3. How can this study be relevant when we are with our family, friends, and colleagues who may not yet be Christians?
4. Pray for GCF (Prayer requests supplied by the Leader).

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Questions for the Youth

1. Experience is the best teacher. In the same way, we get to know God more by experience. How have you experienced God the past week? Are there any things which you are thankful to God for?
2. People used to believe that the earth is flat. However, as scientists continued to learn and discover more about the earth, they realized that it is actually round. How can you, just like the scientists, continue to learn more about God?
3. How does your current experience and knowledge of God shape your attitudes, the way you think, and how you behave?

Questions for Children

1. The Lord's love is described in Psalm 33 as steadfast. Steadfast means that it is like a river which is constantly flowing. How does the Lord show his love for you? Write down three examples.
2. We get to know more about God and his love through his Word. How is God's Word described in verse 4? What does this tell you about God's character?
3. What are some ways for you to show your thankfulness and gratitude to God? List down at least three examples.