

GOD'S OWN MAN LEARNS GOD'S OWN HEART

PSALM 34

MAIN TAKEAWAY

To become a man after God's own heart, David first had to learn the heart of God—that God is a refuge for His people, who provides, delivers, and uses distress for His glory.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). In our study through the Psalms and the life of David, how have you noticed the ways in which David grew to learn the heart of God? How are you learning to do the same?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 34:1-4

God is our refuge. In Psalm 34, we see how David trusted God when things were the hardest—when he was on the run from Saul and hiding in a cave. How do these verses depict what it looks like to find refuge in the Lord?

How did David turn his worry into prayer? How can you do this (Philippians 4:6)?

Pastor Jonathan said, "Past victories can provide present hope. If God did it then, He can do it today." How is this seen in David's situation? How have you experienced it to be true? How does this reveal why you should "never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 34:5-10

Use your distress for God's glory. How were David's difficulties used for a greater purpose? How did he glorify God in his suffering?

How do the words "taste and see" speak of having a personal encounter and relationship with the Lord? What is the result of taking refuge in God (v.8)?

Read 1 Samuel 22:1-2. What drew these men to David? How was David's distress used as means to lead people to God?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 34:11-22

God will provide and deliver (Psalm 46:1-3). Pastor Jonathan said, "Everything we need, God has; everything we want, God has. Anytime you turn from what God has for you and instead turn to what the world *appears* to offer, you will be let down. Small compromises lead to big failures." Why might we look to something or someone other than God to deliver only what God can provide? How can you make God your first priority instead of your last resort?

David shared from His own experience about God's provision and deliverance (v.20), but he also spoke prophetically of the Messiah to come (see John 19:36). How does Christ's perfect sacrifice assure you of God's provision and deliverance in your life?

How does David's story in this psalm serve as an analogy for our spiritual journey? How does it point to our recognition of Jesus Christ as our rightful King and our allegiance to His Kingdom?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

David always blessed the Lord (v.1) because God always provided for Him (vv.4,6,17,19,20). How does David's use of the word "all" reveal how he learned the heart of God? How does knowing who God is and what God does lead you to praise?

How have you learned to trust God in hardship? How can you make Psalm 34:1-4 your prayer? How can this group help as you magnify and exalt God together (v.3)?

PRAYER

Give thanks to God for who He is—that He is a refuge for His people, who provides, delivers, and uses distress for His glory. Pray that you will learn the heart of God as you grow closer to Him.