MISSION|GROUPS
Connect to Christ ~ Connect to Community

Series: Seasons in the Psalms, Reflections on God and the Significance of the Soul
Passage: Psalm 34
Title: Praising God During Dark Times
Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper 8/17/2025

Discussion Starter – Do you have a hero, perhaps a parent or grandparent, pastor, or friend who you admire as a child of God? Are you close to a person whose life story reveals their character? How have they reacted to adversity, to injustice, or to challenges and obstacles throughout their life? How does their behavior speak more loudly than their words? Could you be that person for someone?

Read 1 Samuel 21:10- 22:2 and Psalm 34:1-3

1. Describe David's situation that is the occasion or backstory to this Psalm.

2. At what times does David say it is appropriate to bless, praise, and boast in the Lord? (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

3. How do circumstances affect David's worship of God? What do trials and afflictions reveal about our character and faith in God?

    a. Do trails and afflictions strengthen your faith and/or dependence upon God?

4. Who are the "humble"? Why do they rejoice?

    b. Who is watching you? Is their faith in God built as they observe your relationship with God?

Read Psalm 34:4-14

5. What is David's testimony of God's care, and in verses 4-7?

6. Why is David recognized as a teacher or authority to the "children" in verse 11? What credentials does he claim?

7. What is David's encouragement to others in verses 8-14?

    c. How can you more effectively communicate to others your daily relationship with God and encourage them to know Him? How is the phrase "taste and see" a unique and effective invitation here?

Read Psalm 34:15-22

8. In what ways are the righteous contrasted with the evildoers in these verses?

9. What is meant by God's eyes, ears, and face being on the righteous? Is He not aware of the evildoers?

10. What must a person do to gain God's attention and rescue? (verse 17-18)

    d. Describe your understanding of a broken and contrite heart? How do trials and afflictions shed light on the condition of our heart?

11. Who inflicts judgement on the wicked? Who will and who will not suffer condemnation?