

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Psalm 34 - Try reading or singing the Psalm out loud several times.

Begin by making 2-3 observations you have about the Psalm and note any questions that come up for you. Then answer some or all of the following:

This Psalm was written by David in a particularly hard season. Read 1 Sam 21:10-22:1 (skim 1 Sam 18-21 if you want even more context).

Where do you see connections between the story and the Psalm?
How does knowing the author and context help you engage the Psalm?

In vs 1 David says he will bless YHWH at all times.

What does it mean to bless God?
Have you ever considered that your worship is a blessing to God?
How do you feel about the idea of your actions being able to bless God?

In vs 3 David calls on people to proclaim God's greatness and exalt His name.

Why is it important that worship always be about God?
How do we fall into traps of making worship about us instead of God?
Are there any places where you need to repent of this?
How do we take steps to keep our worship centered on God?

What does it mean to fear the LORD (YHWH)?

What practical/behavioral actions does the Psalm list as living out the fear of YHWH? Why do you think David names these things?

Compare and contrast the righteous and the evil in vs 15-22. What do you see?

Why is it important for us to acknowledge the reality of suffering in life?

What are the dangers of ignoring this reality?
Is acknowledging this reality the same as approving of it or liking it?
Do the righteous suffer because they are righteous or in spite of being righteous? Explain your answer . . .

What does it mean that "YHWH is near the brokenhearted"?

How can you find comfort in this truth?
How does this challenge people's assumptions about suffering?

If suffering is a given, where is our hope?

How are you being invited more deeply into a life of wisdom, hope, and worship?
What practical step can you take to respond faithfully?

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