

Small Group Leaders Notes, 11-12

Sunday Message: *It is God's will to be thankful - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (Tim has some great points to make in his message about being thankful. Continue to reinforce an attitude of gratitude within your group and make giving thanks a focus of your small group meetings.*

Memory Verse: *Psalm 118:29 - Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

Daily Personal Reading Schedule:

Day 1 - Psalm 34

Day 2 - Psalm 145

Day 3 - Psalm 136

Day 4 - Psalm 118

Day 5 - Psalm 63

Small Group Study: Psalm 34

Questions:

1. **As you read Psalm 34, what do you believe is the main point David is expressing in this Psalm?** *I find that David is making a point to worship, praise, and thank God in all circumstances. When we seek him, trust him, and depend upon him we get all that we need and are upheld.*
2. **How does that point relate to your life today?** *It really points to my need to seek God, thank Him and praise Him for who he is and what he has done.*
3. **In verse 3, he says we are to glorify and exalt the Lord together. Why is celebrating praise and thanks to the Lord together important for us as children of God?** *We were created for unity. In Christ we are one. Throughout the Bible we find the children of God worshipping together. It has been said that your relationship with God is personal but never private. We are built up into a complete unified body through the testimony of God's grace and power as it is shared with one another. This again is such a strong reason for small group ministry as well as coming together to worship on Sunday.*
4. **In verse 8, he says, "taste and see that the Lord is good." How have you tasted and seen the goodness of God?** *As I have learned the practice of abiding in Him I have experienced God in a deeper and more intimate way. I have seen his hand work in my life and in those around me. I have learned, like Paul, the secret of being content. It is Christ!*
5. **Reading all of Psalm 34 once again, what has David tasted and seen that has convinced him the Lord is good?** *David has seen how when he was afflicted and when he faced fear he was delivered when he sought the Lord. When he looked to God, he received mercy and faced no shame. God has provided all he needs, he lacks no good thing. He knows that the Lord watches over and listens to the cries of those who follow after him in righteousness. When broken and crushed, the Lord is close. Even though trouble may come David was certain that Lord was with him, would deliver him and redeem him.*

Ministry Opportunity: As a thank offering, acknowledging how God has provided, we are collecting new socks and new or used blankets to distribute through InnVision to homeless people in San Jose. Most will be distributed through the men's shelter and some through the women and children's drop-in center. Your group can come together to support this ministry by collecting socks and blankets and bringing them to the church by 11/19. If you desire, members from your group can come together with us to distribute the items and help serve dinner on Thanksgiving Day at the shelter. For more information and to volunteer, contact me personally.

REMINDER: 11/26 - Small Group Leader Meeting @ 7:15. Bring a favorite dessert to share following the Sunday evening service. We will have a time of fellowship, praise and testimonies on what God is doing in your groups and a brief teaching on evangelism through small groups. Feel free to invite anyone in your group that is involved in the leadership role.

God Bless You,
Dennis Hadley