

Study Guide - 10 May, 2020

Series: Psalms

Text: Psalm 33



This guide will help you facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. You should spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. Look at the Big Idea and What your CG Must Take Away sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused.

Introduction and Series Overview

The purpose of this series is to teach the church to delight in God, enjoy our walk and relationship with him, and see him as our joy in all situations, through the 4 Psalms (34, 33, 13, 143). It is our hope that these Psalms will teach us what it means to truly experience the joy of the Christian faith, because God is our delight.

Context and Text Structure

Psalm 33 is a liturgical psalm or hymn that aims to draw the people of God to corporate worship. Two themes are weaved together throughout the psalm, God's steadfast love and sovereignty. God's steadfast love and sovereignty is seen in creation, his governing of human history, his election of Israel as a covenant nation to carry out his saving purposes, and finally, his delivering all that trust and wait for him. The transcendence and immanence of God are seen through God's sovereignty and steadfast love demonstrated in this psalm.

V1-5: Summary - The call and reason to worship God

V6-9: God's sovereignty and steadfast love as seen through creation

V10-17: God's sovereign rule over the nations and His steadfast love as seen through his Covenant with his people

V18-21: God's steadfast love for us and His promise to those who wait and trust in Him

Big Idea

Delighting in God's sovereign work in creation, sovereign rule over the nations, and steadfast love for His people

CG Takeaway

For your CG to have an awe for God's sovereignty in creation and the nations, and to hope in his steadfast love for you

1. The psalmist worships God enthusiastically in verses 1-3, calling on people to worship God in all sorts of different ways (“shout for joy”, “give thanks... with the lyre”, “ make melody ... with the harp”, “sing ... a new song,” “play skillfully,” “with loud shouts”). What reasons does the Psalmist give for such exuberant worship? (v4-5)

2a. How is God’s steadfast love evident in creation? (v4-9)

2b. How is God’s steadfast love displayed amongst the nations? (v10-17)

3a. How is God’s sovereign rule seen in creation? (v4-9)

3b. How is God’s sovereign rule seen amongst the nations? (v10-17)

4. How might God’s steadfast love be different from the common definition of “love?” How does this Psalm challenge your understanding of God’s steadfast love?

5. God's sovereignty over the nations challenges our belief that the other things we put our trust in can save us. What false hopes and false saviors do you tend to trust in?

6. How does this Psalm encourage us to take comfort in God’s sovereignty and steadfast love in the midst of our plans being frustrated?

7. What response does God’s steadfast love call for from us personally? (v18-22, v8)

8. God’s steadfast love is sometimes not what we expect. How have you experienced God’s steadfast love in your life?

9. How does God’s sovereignty over creation, the nations and your life encourage you to trust in him?