



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 025 : Psalm 34

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Read Psalm 34:1-10

1. Drawing from the first 10 verses of Psalm 34, make a list of how a believer should act towards the Lord. For example: *Bless the Lord* (v1); *Magnify Him* (v3). (There are 10 actions or attitudes to be found, plus 2 repeats.)

Think about how you might do these. How, for example, does one 'magnify' the Lord, when He is already so big?

2. Now read the whole Psalm and list how the Lord acts towards the righteous (see below for the meaning of *righteous*). For example: He *delivers them* (v7, v19); He hears them (v15).

Think about how the Lord does these acts. In what ways, for example, might the Lord deliver His people?

In Old Testament terms, *the righteous* (verses 15, 17, 19 & 21) does not mean those who are perfect, for no one is perfectly righteous (Rom 3:10), but those who are seeking to do right rather than to do evil (see the contrast between verses 15 and 16). Likewise, *saints* (or *holy ones*) (verse 9) refers to God's chosen people, who are holy because of they belong to Him.

To think about: You have already had plenty to think about, but you might like to give further thought about the relationship between the acts of the Lord and those of His people.

To dig deeper: The heading of this Psalm tells us that David wrote it when he pretended madness before Abimelech. Read about this incident in 1 Samuel 21:10 – 22:1 (Achish and Abimelech are two names for the same Philistinian king). How do you think David's escape from this tricky situation inspired him to write Psalm 34?