

THE INVITATION

DATE: SUNDAY, 13TH OF JUNE 2021 | STEPH BESTER

PSALM 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him

NOTES FOR LEADERS:

Flourish Women's Conference is this weekend. It will be live-streamed on our CityHillChurch.TV YouTube channel on Friday evening from 18h30 to 20h00 and on Saturday from 09h00 to 12h00.

START TALKING

1. This Sunday, 4 different preachers shared a message at our 4 services. Which service did you attend, and what stood out to you from that message?
2. What is the most delicious thing you have ever tasted OR what is your favourite meal?

START THINKING

1. Read Psalm 34:8. What do you think the Psalmist means by "taste and see"? What does this say about God? And about us?
2. What are some of the things we fear? How can we give those over to God? How can our church family help us give those fears over to God?

START SHARING

1. On Sunday, Steph shared how, because of his knowledge of God and his trust in God, David faced a giant that had the whole Israelite army terrified. How are you developing a relationship with God today so that when tough times (the "giants") come it will sustain you like it did for David?
 - a). What have you done in the past that helped you trust in God during difficult circumstances?
 - b). What are you doing now that helps you draw closer to God so that you can trust him like David did?
 - c). What else could you do each day that would strengthen your relationship with God?
2. Share an example of a time when you had to rely on your knowledge of God and your trust in Him to get through difficult circumstances.
3. Practically speaking, what does trust in God look like in your life? (Not with eternity in mind, but right here, right

now - how does your trust in God play out tangibly?)

START PRAYING

Is there anyone in the group currently going through tough times? Strengthen them by praying together for them as a group.

START DOING

This week, read Psalm 34 and then answer these questions:

1. In what ways am I not tasting the Lord's goodness? What can I do this week in order to more fully experience the goodness of God?
2. How can I build a stronger relationship with God so that I can continue to "taste and see that the Lord is good"?

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, Steph Bester shared an encouraging message, starting at the place of surrender - the place where our relationship with Christ really starts. Jesus took our place as a living sacrifice, washing away our sins and making a way for us back to the Father. But it doesn't stop there. The Gospel has the power to transform our lives when we are willing to surrender our trust to Jesus.

As parents, sometimes we get things right, and other times we get things very wrong. But even though we get things wrong sometimes, our children still trust us because they know us - they don't view us through the lens of one bad experience.

Our heavenly Father gives us an invitation to trust Him more, to know Him more, to taste and see that He is good (trustworthy)! Many of us are happy to trust God with our eternal lives, but we don't seem too comfortable to release control to Him when it comes to our daily lives. When we trust God in our earthly walk with Him, it is life-changing. There are many characters in the Bible who put their trust in God. Two such people were Abraham and David. We may not face the same challenges that they faced, but spiritually we will face the same decisions that they faced...

1. Abraham:

Abraham's greatest desire was to have a son. God promised him that he would father a son. Abraham waited many years, but eventually, God fulfilled his promise and gave Abraham a son.

Sometime later, God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Genesis 22:1-2.

This is probably one of the most bizarre things we read in the Bible - after waiting many, many years for God to fulfil His promise of a son, God asks Abraham to sacrifice the very same son!

Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Genesis 22:10-12.

In our walk with the Lord, He will ask us to take the most important things to us and bring them as an offering to Him. When we are obedient to this, we exalt Christ as the most important thing in our lives.

The biggest sacrifice that God will ask of each of us is that we would offer Him our dreams and goals and bring our lives as a burnt offering. Abraham had an incredible knowledge of and trust in the Lord to respond the way he did. The Lord is saying to us, "Will you trust me?"

2. David:

David's story is familiar to many of us. Israel was at war with the Philistines. The Israelites were scared, but in came the shepherd boy who, because of his trust in God and his knowledge of God, was able to stand alone in front of thousands of soldiers in the middle of a war zone.

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand, he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

1 Samuel 17.

Each of us in our walk with God will face many moments where, in the natural, everything looks impossible. But when you know God and trust in Him, you are able to say, "the battle is the Lord's."

If both these men had chosen to respond differently, things would have turned out badly:

- The Philistines would have conquered the Israelites.
- Abraham's life and those of his descendants would have been radically different.

Our culture and the world is contesting for our hearts - it tells us that Christianity is no longer relevant. It tells us that we should increase our comfort and choices. Jesus has an enemy, who is also our enemy, and that enemy is contesting for our hearts.

T.T. Crabtree writes the following: The Glorious end result of refusing to be conformed to the world and of experiencing inward mental and spiritual transformation is to prove in our own experience that the will of God is good and acceptable and perfect.

The heart of the Lord's appeal is this: We can know Him by trusting Him. In trusting Him we finally come to know Him.

In Psalm 34:8, David writes: *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. God is saying, "taste and see that I am good. Blessed is the one who takes refuge in me!"*

When we grow in our knowledge of God and our trust in Him, even our prayers change from "help me" to "I find myself in a difficult situation, give me the strength to endure it. Let your Kingdom come and show its glory in this situation." It's at the end of ourselves that we see the power of the Gospel.

We weren't made just to survive - closing our eyes, hanging on for dear life. We were made to bring the presence of Christ into every situation. When we trust Him, He will use us to establish His kingdom and righteousness inside the most challenging situations.