



Sermon Series: Being An Authentic Church

To be used with Session: Worshipping God

Sermon Title Possibilities: A Feast of Fellowship, God's Culinary of Holiness

Scripture: Psalm 34:1-3, 8-10, 15-18

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study, "Being an Authentic Church," this sermon propels your church forward by inviting it to dive into the basics of worship: fellowship, presence, and transformation. It will guide the church toward a richer, more genuine expression of communal worship, forging bonds, deepening spiritual connections, and fostering transformative growth.

Introduction: Every holiday is filled with promise, the promise of family, friends, loved ones, and even enemies gathered around a plate of food with expectation, anticipation, and the hope of leaving with a full stomach. This is the anticipation David wrote about when He wrote Psalm 34. A hope not to eat food, rather using food as a metaphor for the power of worship. As we journey together, bring yourself to the table of the Lord and let's feast together in fellowship, presence, and transformation!

1. Fellowship (v.1-3).

One of the joys of worshipping together is experiencing fellowship with one another. We share in the same faith, hope, and love, and through our collective praise, we can encourage and uplift each other. Just like how David found comfort in sharing his experiences with others in Psalm 34. When we come together to worship, we can find strength and support from one another. Think of a group of friends going on a hike together. They encourage each other along the way, offer words of inspiration, and help each other overcome obstacles. In the same way, when we come together to worship, we provide mutual support and encouragement, helping each other draw closer to God.

2. Presence (v.8-10).

Imagine a concert audience watching their favorite performer take the stage. Although they may be thousands of miles apart, the musician's talent and passion create a shared experience that unites them. Similarly, when we come together to worship, we become part of something much bigger than ourselves, connecting with believers around the world and feeling the power of God's presence. Another joy of worshipping together is experiencing God's presence among us. When we come before Him in prayer and song, He meets us where we are, listening to our cries and offering us peace. Like the psalmist, we can confidently declare that God is good and worthy of our trust. Through corporate worship, we can tangibly feel God's closeness and grace.

3. Transformation (v.1518)

When we worship together, we can be transformed by God's holiness. Our individual struggles and shortcomings are brought into the light of God's glory, and we are changed from within. Corporately confessing our sins and hearing God's word read and preached helps us grow in humility and repentance – becoming more like Christ. God will enrich the vision of His people to see themselves, their lives, and their futures, clearly!

Conclusion:

On the tapestry of the holidays filled with promises, Psalm 34 invites us to a unique feast—not merely of food but of worship. As we gather around the table of the Lord, we delve into three courses: Fellowship, where mutual support strengthens our journey; Presence, where the collective worship experience unites us in a shared divine encounter; and Transformation, where God's holiness reshapes us individually and corporately. Let us savor this spiritual banquet, drawing inspiration from David's anticipation, and leave with hearts filled with the richness of fellowship, the warmth of God's presence, and the transformative power of worship.

Author Bio

Dr. Justin R. Lester is the Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Vallejo, California. He is the Author of, “Necessary Endings” and other works to enrich the local Church.