

the ESSENTIALS

why truth matters

OPENING UP

Share an interesting fact you recently learned or one you've known for a while but find amusing.

TEXT**I Believe in God, the Father almighty | Psalm 33:4-22**

- ⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
- ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
- ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
- ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
he puts the deeps in storehouses.
- ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of
him!
- ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- ¹⁰ The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to
nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
- ¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.
- ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
- ¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
- ¹⁴ from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
- ¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.
- ¹⁶ The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
- ¹⁷ The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.
- ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear
him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.
- ²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
- ²¹ For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
- ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: God our father gives us every reason to worship Him.

Key Question: Why worship God and no other? Because...

Apostles' Creed Statement: *"I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth."*

1. His power is seen in making all things by his Word. (vv. 4-9)
2. His wisdom is seen in carrying out his eternal plans. (vv. 10-17)
3. His love is seen in delivering those who hope in him. (vv. 18-22)

DISCUSSION



- This statement in the Apostles' Creed begins with the phrase "Father almighty." How do the caring attribute of "Father" and the power communicated by the word "almighty" give us a balanced view of who God is and how we relate with him?
- God's power is demonstrated in creation—that by his *word* all things were made (Ps. 33:6). Which phrases in Ps. 33: 4-9 give you an expanded view of God as creator and move your heart to worship? What parts of God's creation in the world have moved your heart to worship him when you have seen them?
- We can also worship the Lord because he is able to accomplish all of his purposes in this world; his wise plans will prevail over any person, king, or nation (v. 10-17). In what area of your life are you having a hard time believing this right now, perhaps because it seems like evil is dominating? Discuss how keeping this view of God in our minds can move our hearts away from despair and toward worship. How does worship help to free us from worry?
- God's steadfast love for us (v. 18) also gives us reason to worship him. Even in famine (v. 19), or hard times, what do verses 18-22 say about what God will do for us and how that will benefit us? What holds you back from worshipping God in hard situations?
- We profess our belief that our God is an almighty Father and creator. What could it look like this week for you to "wait for the Lord" (v. 20) and "hope in" him (v. 22)? What can we do that will help to put our hearts in this state?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Psalms 33 begins with shouts of joy, praising the Lord. Worship is our proper and natural response to experiencing God's power, wisdom, and love.

Discuss ways that we can respond to God with worship in our everyday lives. 1) What is the posture of your heart and body during Sunday morning worship? 2) What does worship and joy in the Lord look like for you on a normal weekday? 3) In what ways do the people around you, both Christians and unbelievers, hear you worship the Lord through praise and thanksgiving in your everyday speech? How can we incorporate it naturally into our conversations?

CLOSING PRAYER



God, I believe that you are Father almighty—personal and caring, and also powerful and strong. Please move my heart to worship you every time I consider your power in creation, your wisdom in carrying out your plans in the world, and your love for me as my deliverer. My hope is in you. Please make my heart glad this week as I delight in who you are. Amen.