

# CLOSER THAN EVER

WEEK 1  
PSALM 34:1-3  
DANNY ANDERSON

How close do you feel to God? \_\_\_\_\_

“His **purpose** was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him- though he is **not far** from any one of us.” *Acts 17:27*

“But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his **own heart...**” *1 Samuel 13:14*

1. Make God your **treasure** \_\_\_\_\_ .

I will **bless** the Lord at all times; his **praise** shall continually be in my mouth. *Psalm 34:1*

“What you **say** flows from what is in your **heart.**” *Luke 6:45*

2. Take **pride** \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

My soul makes its **boast** in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. *Psalm 34:2*

“Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he **understands and knows** me, that I am the **Lord** who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth...” *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

3. Make God look **great** \_\_\_\_\_ .

Oh, **magnify** the Lord with me, and let us **exalt** his name together! *Psalm 34:3*

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be **exalted** in my body, whether by life or by death. *Philippians 1:20*

1. What is your treasure?
2. What is your soul's boast?
3. Who does your life magnify?

Food Fast

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Fruits/Veggies \_\_\_\_\_

Junk Food \_\_\_\_\_

Media Fast

Social Media \_\_\_\_\_

Television \_\_\_\_\_

Video Games \_\_\_\_\_

For a suggested 21 Day Fast Devotional, download the Bible App in the App Store or on Google Play.

Audio and video messages are available at [eclife.org](http://eclife.org) under “RECENT MESSAGE” on the home page.

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

## Introduction

This time of the year is a great time to take inventory. It's a great time to ask, “How's my relationship with God?” This could be the year that we become closer than ever to Him.

## Discussion Questions

1. This series is called “Closer than Ever.” Describe what it would look like for you, as an individual, to be closer than ever to God. What would be different about your life? What would need to change to accomplish that kind of closeness?

Read Acts 17:27. Using a scale of 1-10, how close do you feel to God right now? What are the reasons and/or factors for your rating?

2. If we are going to be closer than ever, we must make God our treasure, take pride in God, and make God look great. Of these three main points from the weekend talk, which point was the most helpful in drawing you closer to God? Why?

3. Read Psalm 34:1-3. In order to live closer to God than ever before we need to examine three areas of our lives. Read the following verses, and share your answers to the corresponding questions:

-Read Luke 6:45. What is your treasure?

-Read Jeremiah 9:23-24. What is your soul's boast?

-Read Philippians 1:20. Who does your life magnify?

Where do you see the most need for improvement? Why?

4. Albert Einstein said, “If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got.” Fasting orients your soul toward God, and disrupts your patterns of living to make you more aware of His presence. Did you accept the 21-Day Fasting challenge? If so, which fast did you choose? Why? What results do you expect to see?

## OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

1. Write a note of encouragement to another small group member and mail it. There is something intentional and meaningful about getting a card in the mail.

2. What are you passionate about? Fill out a connection card and commit to serving at your campus at least once a month.

3. Last chance to sign up for the spring Nicaragua mission trip in March. Email Kerry Jones at [kjones@eclife.org](mailto:kjones@eclife.org) if you have questions or to register.

## Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

I'm accountable for \_\_\_\_\_, and their action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_

This coming week, I'm praying for: \_\_\_\_\_