

# CLOSER THAN EVER

WEEK 3  
PSALM 34:9, 11-14, 16  
DANNY ANDERSON

\_\_\_ **Fear** \_\_\_ God.

**Fear** the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. *Psalm 34:9*

To fear God means to be ultimately \_\_\_ **concerned** \_\_\_ about what God \_\_\_ **thinks** \_\_\_.

God is a \_\_\_ **friend** \_\_\_ to those who fear him.

The **friendship** of the Lord is for those who **fear** him, and he makes known to them his covenant. *Psalm 25:14*

1. Desires what is \_\_\_ **good** \_\_\_.

Come, O children, listen to me; I will **teach** you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who **desires life** and loves many days, that he may see **good**? *Psalm 34:11-12*

The fear of the Lord leads to **life**, and whoever has it rests **satisfied**; he will not be visited by harm. *Proverbs 19:23*

2. \_\_\_ **Talks** \_\_\_ differently.

Keep your **tongue** from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. *Psalm 34:13*

“And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle **word** you speak. The **words** you say will either acquit you or condemn you.” *Matthew 12:36-37*

And whatever you do or say, do it as a **representative** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. *Colossians 3:17*

3. Avoids \_\_\_ **evil** \_\_\_.

Turn from **evil** and do **good**; seek peace and pursue it. *Psalm 34:14*

The fear of the Lord is **hatred** of evil. *Proverbs 8:13*

The face of the Lord is **against** those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. *Psalm 34:16*

How do we cultivate the fear of the Lord?

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe**. *Psalm 33:8*

We aren't concerned about what God thinks because we don't know who He is.

Participating in the 21-Day Fast?  
Download the Emmanuel Church App in the App Store or on Google Play for follow-up videos and encouraging messages from Danny throughout the week.

# CLOSER THAN EVER



For Group Discussion

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

## Introduction

The idea of fearing God is all over the Bible, but it's not talked about very often. To fear God means that you are ultimately concerned about what God thinks. Could it be that we aren't concerned with what God thinks because we don't really know who God is?

## Discussion Questions

1. Read Psalm 34:9-16. If we want to draw closer than ever to God, we must fear Him. What does it mean to fear God?

In Psalm 25:14 David writes, “The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him...” What do you think about the idea that God is a friend to those who fear Him? How is this idea the same, or different, from your other relationships?

2. People who fear God desire what is good. What does God desire? Do you find your desires aligned with God's? Why or why not?

What desires do you need to re-prioritize or remove because they don't align with God's?

3. Words can be vicious. They can be used to demean, hurt, harm, and damage others. Share the last time you used your words to hurt someone, or someone used their words to hurt you, and the kind of impact the exchange of those words had.

David explains in Psalm 34 (v. 13) that people who fear God talk differently. Why is that important? Where do you have a tendency to miss the mark in this area?

4. We all have things we avoid – traffic, vegetables, exercise, certain people. Share one thing you typically avoid, and why you go to the effort to avoid it.

Audio and video messages are available at eclife.org under “RECENT MESSAGE” on the home page.

The person who fears God will avoid evil because he sees sin and evil the way God sees it. In Proverbs 8:13 it says, “All who fear the Lord will hate evil...” What are the implications of getting this wrong? What happens when we get this right?

5. To fear God means to be ultimately concerned about what God thinks. Often times, people aren't concerned about what God thinks because they don't know who God is. Read Psalm 33:8. What are you doing to better understand who God is? What steps will you take this week to draw closer to God in this area of your life?

## 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.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_