

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK

WEEK 16: Leader Study Guide

Taste and See

-Welcome!

-Intro: Thanks for being here! Revisit last week's points

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**Exchange numbers or invite attendees to join your ETEW Facebook group.*

INTRO:

Hi, and welcome to Every Track Every Week. My name is _____ and I am involved with Texas FCA Motocross through _____. I've been involved with FCA MX for _____ years and my favorite thing about the ministry is_____.

So far, throughout most of our weekly Bible study topics this year, we've been talking about specific important doctrines of our faith and how understanding these doctrines actually helps us understand and know who God is. These specific biblical doctrines help us know God rightly so that we can worship Him rightly. Additionally, we've seen how incredibly important it is to know what we believe, why we believe it, and we've seen how theology is simply the part of worship that involves our mind... This week, while we aren't talking about a specific doctrine per say, we will still be talking about doctrine, just in a little different way. We will be taking a look at Psalm 34 and the language we see there of "Taste and See". Since God is not simply an idea to discuss, a philosophy to live by, or a model for moral living for us to copy... since He is real and personal and wants us to know Him in a real, personal way, it is helpful to talk about our personal experience with God, and the experience that we see people in Scripture have with God. Specifically we will be looking at Psalm 34 where the author says,

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,

for those who fear him have no lack!

The young lions suffer want and hunger;

but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.



-Ice Breaker Question: Have you ever had a really awesome race win? How did it make you feel? Have you ever had a really bad race? How did it make you feel?

-Question 1: *This verse is pretty unique that it tells us to taste and see that the Lord is good. This specifically touches on two of our senses, taste and sight. Why do you think is worded this way?*

ANSWER:

1) I have learned that when studying Scripture, it is important to pay attention to how it is written. The author chose these words carefully. All scripture is inspired by God, (2 Tim 3:16 and numerous other scriptures). God doesn't let one single word escape that isn't exactly what He wanted to say. So, we know that this was written this way on purpose and for a reason.

2) This scripture is telling us that God is not a theory or idea or even something or someone that we should learn about so that we can simply learn lessons. God is a being...He is alive, He is living (not in the sense that we know living or are alive, as in having a beginning and an end) but He is real and living and we are invited to know him....not just learn about him. We are invited to know him with our senses...with our whole being, not just in our heads.

3) Ps 34: 9-10 9

*Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!*

*10 The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.*

-Question 2: *What are some examples in scripture of this being lived out?*

***Answer:**

1) Paul and Silas in Prison as we read in Acts 15:16-34:

"16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.



19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Converted

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer[e] called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God."

2) Isn't it amazing that we see Paul and Silas being persecuted... put in prison... in as terrible of a situation as you can imagine and yet they were singing praises to God?? They weren't doing this SO THAT God would rescue them... They were doing this because God HAD ALREADY rescued them (specifically He had rescued them from sin and death... not necessarily from prison). They knew that regardless of how bad things got on earth for them, they had a bigger, grander, better, lasting hope in Christ for eternity. The gravity and reality of who God is was so real to them, because they had tasted and seen that HE IS GOOD, that the temporary pain, suffering, and persecution seemed insignificant. They were holding a eternal perspective, because of the realities of what God had promised (eternity with Him), and WHO God is. They had tasted and seen that He is good and their lives reflected that appropriately.



-Question 4: This is an awesome story. How do we know that they experienced God?...that they tasted and saw that God was good?

***ANSWER:**

1) Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 9)

2) 2Cor 11:30, "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.³² At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³ but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands."

3) 2 Tim 4:16, "At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

-Question 5: Through Paul, the Bible shows us what a life dependent on Christ can look like. But does God show up like this today, or are these just references to what God used to do?

ANSWER:

He absolutely still does. God is the same God today as He has always been. While these stories may not necessarily be prescriptive as to what we can always expect as believers today, without a doubt God is still fully present and active in our daily lives and He is still fully able to operate in our lives like this.

-Question 6: How do these things drive our attitudes, our actions, and our lives?

-Lets pray.

