



# WOODLAND HEIGHTS

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Part #1 – Foundation: Building on the Rock

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### Small Group Discussion Guide on Psalm 33:8-22

#### Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Psalm 33:8–22 connects deeply with the Woodland Heights Christian Church core values of Biblical Authority, Biblical Worldview, Discipleship, Prayer, and Community. We believe that the Word of God is the final authority for life and that a Biblical worldview is essential for understanding both our personal story and our national story under the hand of God.

This message reminds us that the true foundation of any life, family, or nation is not its resources, its strategies, or its reputation, but the sovereign, faithful, and steadfast Lord who rules over history. It calls believers to remember that God is the One who brings the counsel of the nations to nothing, whose purposes stand forever, and whose eyes rest on those who fear Him and hope in His steadfast love. In a culture shaken by headlines, division, and uncertainty about the future, Psalm 33 lifts our eyes from the shifting plans of people to the unshakable foundation of God's character.

#### Section 1 – ENCOUNTER

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##### Observing God's Word

Imagine standing in the middle of a moment when everything feels unstable—news reports filled with conflict, leaders arguing about the future, families worried about their children, and believers wondering what kind of world the next generation will inherit. In seasons like this, it is easy to believe that the outcome of history rests on human power, human wisdom, or human plans. Psalm 33 invites us to step back and remember that there is a greater foundation beneath it all—a God whose counsel stands forever, whose purposes outlast every empire, and whose love anchors those who trust Him.

Long before there was a United States, long before modern nations rose and fell, the psalmist declared that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!" (Psalm 33:12, ESV). This blessing is not about national pride but about spiritual posture—a people who fear the Lord, stand in awe of Him, and build their life upon His Word. As we begin this study, we are reminded that Christianity is not about clinging to a national heritage; it is about clinging to our Savior and letting Him be the foundation for our lives, our homes, and our hopes.

- Read Psalm 33:8–22 (ESV) as a group, as a family, or individually, allowing the Holy Spirit to lift your eyes from the plans of people to the purposes of God.
- What words, phrases, or images stand out to you most in Psalm 33:8–22? Why do they resonate with you in this season of your life or in the current state of our nation?
- When you read verse 12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," what thoughts or emotions surface regarding our country, your family, or your personal walk with Christ?

## Section 2 – EXPLORE

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As we explore Psalm 33:8–22, we discover that God is not a distant spectator to history; He is the Author who orders events, restrains evil, and unfolds His purposes from generation to generation. The sermon’s Big Idea can be summarized this way: **Blessed are you who are wise enough to make the Lord your foundation.** This passage reveals three essential building blocks for every person and every nation that desires to stand firm and experience God’s blessing.

### Building Block #1 – Honor the Lord as Holy and Let His Greatness Direct Your Daily Life

Psalm 33 begins its foundation with two clear commands: “Let all the earth fear the Lord” and “let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!” (v. 8). This fear is not a cringing dread, but a holy reverence – the response of a creature who has glimpsed the majesty of the Creator, the God who speaks and galaxies obey. When you truly fear the Lord, standing in awe of who He is and what He has done, it reshapes how you see yourself, your country, your future, and every decision you make.

Our founding story as a nation is full of storms, turns, and “coincidences” that bear the fingerprints of God’s providence, from diverted fleets to spiritual awakenings that prepared hearts long before there was a Declaration of Independence. These historical reminders do not exalt our nation; they magnify our God and underline the truth of verse 12: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

- How would you describe the “fear of the Lord” in your own words, and why is it essential for both individuals and nations?
- Verse 10 says, “The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.” How does this truth challenge the way we view political power, cultural trends, or national security?
- What practical step could you take this week to let God’s greatness – not the latest news, not your fears – direct your daily life (decisions, conversations, priorities)?

### Building Block #2 – Trust the Mighty Hand God and Not in the Failing Strength of Man

In verses 13–15, we are told that the Lord looks down from heaven and sees all the children of man; from His throne He observes all who dwell on the earth; He fashions their hearts and observes all their deeds. Nothing is hidden from Him – not our private fears, not the late-night decisions of leaders, not the unseen acts of faithfulness carried out by ordinary believers. God’s awareness is not cold surveillance; it is the caring gaze of a sovereign Father who never loses sight of His people.

Verses 16–17 warn us that kings are not saved by their great armies, warriors are not delivered by their strength, and war horses are a false hope for salvation. The men who shaped this nation were familiar with power, yet many of them acknowledged that apart from God’s aid, their efforts would ultimately fail. Benjamin Franklin famously recognized that “God governs in the affairs of men,” and urged leaders to seek His help. Psalm 33 presses the same point home: real security, for nations and for individuals, is not found in our strength but in the steadfast love of the Lord.

- When you read that “the king is not saved by his great army” and “the war horse is a false hope,” what modern equivalents come to mind (technology, money, politics, reputation)?
- In what ways are you personally tempted to trust in human strength – your own abilities, your resources, or the systems around you – more than in the Lord?
- What does it look like, practically, to live with both holy fear and steady hope?

## Building Block #3 – Hope is Found When You Recognize the Lord as Your Strength, Your Shield, and Your Refuge

The closing verses of Psalm 33 form a powerful confession of faith: “Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.” In a culture that treats waiting as weakness or failure, Scripture portrays waiting as the posture of a soul that has stopped pretending it can manage the universe. To wait on the Lord is to rest your weight on His wisdom, His timing, and His strength, rather than rushing ahead in self-reliance.

Verse 21 declares that “our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name,” reminding us that real joy is not tethered to circumstances but rooted in the character of God. Verse 22 ends with a simple but profound prayer: “Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.” This steadfast love—the loyal, covenant love of God—is the glue that holds lives, families, churches, and even nations together when everything else shakes. It is this love that generations before us have clung to, from seasons of war and loss to times of awakening and renewal, often summarized in the humble confession, “In God We Trust.”

- How would you describe the difference between passive waiting (doing nothing) and Biblical waiting (active trust and obedience)?
- Where in your life right now do you sense God calling you to stop striving in your own strength and begin waiting on Him as your help and shield?
- How could the prayer of verse 22—“Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you”—shape your prayers for your family, your church, and your country?

### Section 3 – EMBRACE

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#### Applying God’s Word

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Psalm 33:8-22.

##### ***Examine Your Foundation***

Take time this week to ask the Lord to reveal what you are truly building your life upon. Is your foundation your career, your security, your politics, your family name, or your own abilities—or is it the Lord Himself? Write down one area where you need to move from self-reliance to God-reliance and share it with a trusted friend or family member for accountability and prayer.

##### ***Practice Holy Awe in Daily Choices***

The fear of the Lord and standing in awe of Him are not just Sunday attitudes; they are everyday practices that shape how we speak, work, relate, and decide. Choose one daily rhythm—your morning routine, your commute, or your lunch break—and intentionally turn it into a time of worship this week by reading a few verses from Psalm 33 and praising God for His greatness.

##### ***Wait on the Lord with Confident Hope***

Waiting on God is not passive; it is a steady posture of prayer, obedience, and trust while you look for His help and protection. Choose one area where you are tempted to rush ahead of God (a decision, a relationship, a plan) and commit to wait on Him this week—seeking His direction through Scripture and prayer before you act.

## Closing Challenge and Prayer

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The story of Scripture and the story of our nation both testify that human strength rises and falls, but the counsel of the Lord stands forever. Documents, armies, and economies all have their place, but they were never meant to be our foundation—they are gifts, not gods. The Lord—the God of Psalm 33, the Lord of history—is the only Rock strong enough to hold your life, your family, and your future.

As a group, pray for one another to reject false foundations and to build every part of life on the Lord. Ask God to raise up believers in this generation who fear Him, trust His steadfast love, and wait on Him as their help and shield.

- Father, Thank You that You are the God whose counsel stands forever and whose purposes no nation, no leader, and no circumstance can overturn. Forgive us for the times we have trusted in our own strength, our own plans, or our nation's resources instead of resting on You as our true foundation. Teach us to fear You rightly, to stand in awe of who You are, and to order our lives under Your Word. Help us to turn away from the false hopes of human strength and to place our confidence in Your steadfast love.  
Lord, be our help and our shield. Fill our hearts with joy as we trust in Your holy name, and let Your steadfast love be upon us, our families, our church, and our nation, even as we hope in You. Use our lives as a testimony that real blessing is found when the Lord is our foundation. In Jesus' name, Amen.