

## Sunday Sermon Study Guide - April 14 Mike Haynes-Director of Student Ministries The Power of a Name: *Jehovah Ezer (God My Helper)* Psalm 33:13-20 - Hebrews 13:5-6

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." 6 So we can say with confidence, "The LORD is my helper (boéthos), so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? 7Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. Hebrews 13:5-7 (NLT)

The LORD looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. 14From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. 15He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do. 16The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. 17Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory for all its strength, it cannot save you. 18But the LORD watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. 19He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. 20We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help (ezer) and our shield. Psalm 33:13-20 (NLT)

## A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

## **DISCUSSION POINTS**

- 1. Mike climbs right into the boat with us: today's topic is something he personally is experiencing along with many of us.
  - What do we do when our reality is not lining up with our expectations? Do we begin to question ourselves or do we question God and his concern for us?

• When things fall apart, when the X's and O's don't line up in your life experiences, what is your first thought? What is your first go to action? Fixing it yourself or asking God to be a part of the effort and the solution?

• The Psalmist writes "*don't count on your warhorse to give you victory*." What does this mean for you living here in affluent Northern Virginia?

• How might your answer be different if you lived in another part of the world? Why?

2. It could just be an assumption, but it seems true that all of us have question marks in some key areas of our lives. So what is the biggest "?" hanging over your head today?

• Despite all of your best efforts, where are you feeling threatened today? Is it in your professional environment, in a close friendship, in your family life, financially or something not listed here?

• Mike asks us to take a hard look at the difference between our lived experiences and what we were expecting. Where is the tension for you between your expectations and your current reality?

• How do you understood the promises of God when He says that he will supply your every need? When have you questioned the truth of that statement or promise? What were the circumstances surrounding your doubt?

- 3. Mike cautions us with a view of mere Inspirational Christianity where we might read passages of scripture like a *Braveheart* movie speech.
  - Inspiration can move us from stagnation, but how does it address our deepest heartfelt questions?
  - Hebrews 13:7 tells us to "*follow the example of their faith*." Whose faith has inspired you and given you hope?

• Where do you look in scripture for faith examples and for hope?

4. What is God's perspective or vantage point in Psalm 33?

• *"He understands everything they do."* Everyone could use a helper in their lives, but what would it be like to have a *Helper* who knows you intimately?

• If the well-equipped army, the warrior's strength, or the *warhorse* cannot save us, who can save us (and answer our deepest questions)?

• Verses 18 and 19 say that God **watches**, **rescues**, and **keeps** us. What do these verses tell us about God? How might this provide comfort in the midst of chaos?

• In last week's message, pastor Brian asked us to shift our focus. Today Mike asks us to consider where we put our hope and where do we go for help? *Jehovah Ezer* is the only one with the power to reshape your reality, how will you allow Him to fill that role?

## **Making It Real**

This week practice going to God first with a request for help before attempting to do something only yourself. Record the outcome.