**READ PSALM 34 AS A GROUP. (If you want, read it a couple times together)**

**1** I will extol the Lord at all times;  
 his praise will always be on my lips.  
2 I will glory in the Lord;  
 let the afflicted hear and rejoice.  
3 Glorify the Lord with me;  
 let us exalt his name together.

**4** I sought the Lord, and he answered me;  
 he delivered me from all my fears.  
5 Those who look to him are radiant;  
 their faces are never covered with shame.  
6 This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;  
 he saved him out of all his troubles.  
7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,  
 and he delivers them.

**8** Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
 blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.  
9 Fear the Lord, you his holy people,  
 for those who fear him lack nothing.  
10 The lions may grow weak and hungry,  
 but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.  
11 Come, my children, listen to me;  
 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
12 Whoever of you loves life  
 and desires to see many good days,  
13 keep your tongue from evil  
 and your lips from telling lies.  
14 Turn from evil and do good;  
 seek peace and pursue it.

**15** The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
 and his ears are attentive to their cry;  
16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
 to blot out their name from the earth.

**17** The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;  
 he delivers them from all their troubles.  
18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted  
 and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

**19** The righteous person may have many troubles,  
 but the Lord delivers him from them all;  
20 he protects all his bones,  
 not one of them will be broken.

**21** Evil will slay the wicked;  
 the foes of the righteous will be condemned.  
22 The Lord will rescue his servants;  
 no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

**CONVERSATION:**

As the group prepares to reflect on this beautiful Psalm, take a few minutes to pray as an Abolition Group for your discussion. In this passage, we read the Psalter praising God for his deliverance, rescue, restoration, and justice.

After you read the passage, start your discussion by worshipping God however your group sees fit. You can worship through song, through art, or just by having each person say something they love about God. It is your group’s decision, but just spend some time in worship.

After you are done worshipping, ask these questions:

* In verse 4, the Psalter describes God answering and delivering him from all his fears. How do you see God answering and delivering you, and others, today?
* What do you think verse 5 means when applied to victims trapped in modern slavery today?
* This psalm constantly discusses fearing the Lord. What do you think that means? How do we fear him?
* Verse 14 says to "do good; seek peace and pursue it." By being a part of Hope for Justice, you are already doing good, seeking peace, and pursuing it. Thank you for all you do. The question we want to ask is: how do you do more?
* What do you think of verse 16? Does it/should it apply to those doing the trafficking? What does justice look like in regards to the traffickers?
* Verse 18 describes a God who is close to people. Where do you see God being close today? How we share that reality of God's closeness?

**PRAYER & SENDING:**

Close your time together by praying as group through the prayer requests listed in the Abolition Group email.