

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

PSALM 33

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – JANUARY 4, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 33:4 (ESV)

*For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.*

(Please have your Church Group read the entire Psalm aloud)

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

As you think about the start of this new year, what emotions best describe how you are entering 2026—excitement, anxiety, hope, uncertainty, or something else?

SERMON RECAP

Psalm 33 calls God's people to look back and remember God's faithfulness, so that we can look forward with confidence and trust. As the psalmist reflects on God's past works, we are reminded that all of God's work is done in faithfulness (Psalm 33:4).

The sermon highlighted three attributes of God that anchor our trust in the year ahead:

1. Remember God's power (vv. 6–9)

- God created all things simply by His word (let the reality of that sink in).
- His power is unmatched and on display in both creation and everyday life.
- Remembering God's power strengthens our confidence in what He can do.

2. Remember God's authority (vv. 10–17)

- God is sovereign over nations, plans, and individual lives.
- Even when our plans are frustrated, God's purposes stand forever.
- Trusting God's authority leads to freedom, obedience, and joy.

3. Remember God's love (vv. 18–19)

- God's steadfast love (Hebrew: *hesed*) is directed toward those who hope in Him.
- He delivers, sustains, and ultimately saves His people.
- In Christ, God's faithful love gives us hope for this life and the life to come.

Looking back on God's power, authority, and love gives us confidence to trust Him—no matter what the new year brings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: *What does the passage say?*

1. As you read Psalm 33, what repeated themes or ideas stand out to you?
2. What words or phrases emphasize God's faithfulness throughout the psalm?
3. Where in Psalm 33 do you see contrasts between trusting in human strength and trusting in the Lord?



Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Why does Psalm 33 repeatedly connect God's word with His actions? What does that teach us about who God is?
2. How do God's power, authority, and love work together to shape our understanding of His faithfulness?
3. How does God's faithfulness differ from the way the world understands reliability or success?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. As you look back on 2025, where did you clearly see God's power, authority, or love at work in your life?
2. Where are you currently struggling to trust in the faithfulness of God as you look ahead to the new year? What aspects of God's character, and what promises from God's word, can encourage you in this struggle? (Members of your Church Group may be able to share promises from Scripture to encourage you.)
3. In your personal walk with Christ, what regular rhythms or practices have helped you grow in trusting God's faithfulness (e.g., Scripture reading, prayer, confessing sins, sharing your testimony with others, community)? As you begin 2026, how are you resolving to continue or deepen those practices?
4. If you were 100% convinced today that God would be faithful to all His promises in Scripture, where might you step out more in faith and freedom in 2026? (How you spend your time, how often you share your faith with non-believers, how you pursue reconciliation in relationships, how you spend your money, what other areas?)

LEADER NOTES

Head over to mcleanbible.org/21days for resources and encouragements on the upcoming 21 Days of Prayer.