



# Welcome to Church!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.

Here are some activities going on with us!



## Small Group Leaders & Facilitators Meet-up

Pastor Nic will meet with Groups 3 & 4 on July 19, 2026, 7PM at the Center.



## IPLC 2026

The **International Pastors & Leaders Convention (IPLC 2026)** will be held on **July 28-30** at the Living Word Banawa. Registration is ongoing.

To register, go to: [www.livingwordnra.ph/iplc](http://www.livingwordnra.ph/iplc)



## How can we pray for you?

Inviting you to join our **Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays at 7PM**. You may **send your prayer requests** and **praise reports** by text (0912 130 6148), by writing them on the prayer cards provided, or by sending us a private message on our Facebook page.



## Ways to give tithes and love gifts.

BPI Checking      **0421-0041-16**  
Paypal      **@livingwordnra**  
GCash Account      **0912-130-6148**



## Discover life with our **Small Groups**.

Looking for **deeper connections** and a **closer walk with God**? Our small groups are where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in faith together. Want to join? Visit our Information Booth after the service to find the perfect group for you!



## Stay for **fellowship** and **refreshments**.

Stick around after the service for **coffee** and **connection**! It's the perfect chance to meet some friendly faces, learn more about our small groups, our ministries, and discover all that our church has to offer. We'd love to see you there!



## Free **Blood Pressure** and **Sugar Check-up**.

Encouraging those who wish to monitor their Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar levels to **avail of our free check-up**, happening **every after Sunday service**!

**LIVING WORD NRA**  
*Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.*

## OPEN TO RECEIVE

**Psalms 34:4-8**

Open: A Psalms Series on the Posture of Encounter

*Ptr. Nic Sy | July 12, 2026*

### Sermon Notes

## I. SENT (THE GIFT THAT WAS ALREADY SENT)

“encamps” | Heb. chanah (חָנָה) | “to pitch tents, to dwell, to rest.”

*God's initiative precedes our openness.*

*The gift doesn't start when you open it; it starts when it's sent.*

## II. SHOWN (THE FACE THAT CAN'T BE HIDDEN)

“radiant” | Heb. nahar (נָהַר) | “to sparkle, be cheerful.”

*You can't fake the face of someone who has actually seen God.*

What has held your gaze lately?

## III. SAVORED (THE TABLE THAT'S FINALLY SET)

“taste” | Heb. taam (טָעַם)

*God's goodness is too good to remain unopened and too personal to remain secondhand.*

*Borrowed faith can quote the psalm; it just can't sing it.*

## Our Mission

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.

## Sunday Services



**English** 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM



**Cebuano** 4:00 PM

## 2nd Floor,

## Northgate Center.

across Gaisano Country Mall  
Banilad, Cebu City.



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(032) 517-5991 (Office)

# “OPEN TO RECEIVE”

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 13-19, 2026

### GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is one simple thing that instantly brightens your face or improves your mood?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### Read Psalms 34:4-8

1. Read Psalms 34:4 and Psalm 56:3-4. David does not say that he never experienced fear. What did he choose to do when he was afraid? What is the difference between denying fear and bringing fear honestly to God? What fear or concern do you need to begin placing before the Lord more intentionally?

2. 1 Samuel 21 reveals the background of this psalm. Knowing that David composed this beautiful psalm of praise while hiding in a cave after such a desperate, embarrassing escape, how does this context alter your appreciation of his words? What does this tell us about the types of messy, unpolished situations God is willing to respond to? Why is it comforting to know that we do not have to clean up our lives or be in a perfect environment before experiencing God's rescue?

3. David says, “I sought the LORD, and he answered me.” What does it mean to seek the Lord rather than merely seeking relief, solutions, or a change in circumstances? When facing a problem, what do you usually turn to first? How does one develop the habit of seeking God before allowing fear or anxiety to take control?

4. What do you think it means that *“those who look to him are radiant”*? Why does what we continually focus on affect our attitude, emotions, and responses? What has held most of your attention lately, and how might fixing your eyes on God change the way you face it?

5. Verse 7 says the angel of the Lord *“encamps”* around those who fear him – a picture of a guard already stationed, not one who rushes in after the fact. Can you think of a season in your life where you only realized later that God had already been protecting or providing for you, even before you felt it or asked for it? Share this experience to the group.

6. Psalms 34:8 says, “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!” Why do you think David uses the language of tasting instead of simply saying, “Know that the Lord is good”? What is the difference between knowing about God's goodness through someone else and personally taking refuge in him? Why is secondhand faith so dangerous?

7. Over the past few weeks, this series has guided us through being fully known (Psalm 139), being radically honest (Psalm 73), waiting expectantly on the threshold (Psalm 40), and finally receiving God's finished work (Psalm 34). Looking back across this entire journey, which of these spiritual postures has been the most challenging for your soul to adopt?

### NEXT STEPS

*God's goodness is too good to remain unopened and too personal to remain secondhand.*

- **Seek Honestly.** I will bring my fears honestly to God instead of carrying them alone.
- **Look Upward.** I will focus more on who God is than on what frightens me.
- **Trust His Presence.** I will take refuge in God even when I cannot yet see what he is doing.
- **Taste His Goodness.** I will not just admire God's goodness from a distance but actually taste it.

### CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for grace to bring your fears honestly to God, fix your eyes on his presence, take refuge in his goodness, and personally taste and see that the Lord is good.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

|         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| July 13 | <b>Psalms 34:1-8</b>    |
| July 14 | <b>1 Samuel 21:1-15</b> |
| July 15 | <b>Exodus 34:29-35</b>  |
| July 16 | <b>1 Peter 2:1-5</b>    |
| July 17 | <b>John 6:35-38</b>     |
| July 18 | <b>Psalms 106:32-39</b> |
| July 19 | <b>Psalms 106:40-48</b> |

