



**Vindicate me  
BY YOUR MIGHT**

### **Recommended Approach**

- Prior to our meeting in class, **read Psalm 54 each day** of the week leading up to our meeting. You certainly may do so with your own Bible or use the translation of Psalm 54 provided on the final page of this packet.
- Prior to our meeting, complete the tasks provided on the following pages.
- Bring this study guide along with you to our class meeting.
- Note: you need not to have completed this guide prior to our meeting in order to function well at our class meeting. Do join us whether you were able to spend time with this study guide or not.

### **Task #1 - "Create / Supply a Theme"**

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... write out a proposed theme for this psalm.
- You are also free to jot a few words, sentences to provide your rationale for your proposed theme.

## **Task #2 - "Connect with the Backstory"**

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... Visit 1 Sam. 23:19-29; 26:1-5. Then LIST BELOW several connections you detect between the backstory and the sentiments expressed in this Psalm.
- You are also free to jot a few words or sentences of rationale or response for each selection.

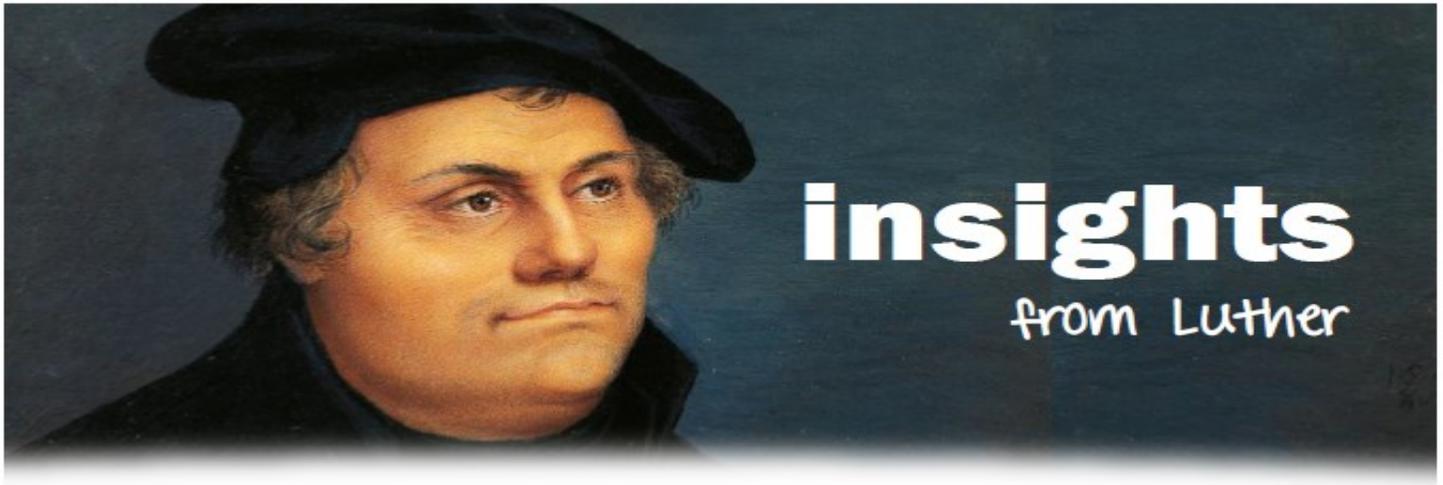


### **Task #3 - "Select a Memory Verse"**

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... select a verse you'd be most likely to commit to memory. (Write out the verse below)
- You are also free to jot a few words or sentences to provide your rationale for the selection.

### **Task #4 - "Take it to the LORD in prayer"**

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... answer the question: "What Prayer does this Psalm lead you to make?"
- You can answer by composing your prayer below or simply listing some of the "raw concepts / ideas" you'd likely include in a prayer (but aren't currently ready to provide the polish).



**Read and evaluate the following excerpts from “Reading the Psalms with Luther” ... feel free to jot down any thoughts you have in reaction to Martin Luther’s insights.**

**Comments:** The 54th psalm is a psalm of prayer against the persecutors who seek the life of the godly on account of the Word of God. Thus Saul and those in Ziph had attempted to kill David on account of the Word of God, through which he had been called and consecrated to be king. The psalmist prays for deliverance from his enemies and for vengeance upon them.

**Prayer:** Lord, our God, who desires not the death of the wicked, convert those who hate us without a cause, and turn the hearts of those who persecute Your Christians. Protect the poor and the innocent against the oppression of unjust men. Grant us patience under the cross, and preserve us in the one true faith to our end. Amen.

# Psalm 54

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## *Heading*

*For the choir director.*

*With stringed instruments.*

*A maskil by David.*

*When the Ziphites went and said to Saul,  
“Is not David hiding himself with us?”*

## *The Plea*

- 3 God, by your name save me,  
and by your might vindicate me.  
4 God, hear my prayer,  
give ear to the words of my mouth.

## *The Problem*

- 5 For strangers have risen up against me,  
and ruthless men seek my life;  
they do not place God before them. *Selah*

## *The Solution*

- 6 Indeed God is a helper for me;  
the Lord is among those who sustain my life.  
7 Let evil return on those who oppress me;  
in your faithfulness destroy them.

## *The Outcome*

- 8 I will sacrifice willingly to you.  
I will praise your name, O LORD, for [it is good].  
9 For from all my distress he has delivered me,  
and my eyes have looked [in triumph] on my enemies.

# Psalm 54 - Classroom Lecture / Discussions

When we meet for our group study of Psalm 54, the next pages are available for note-taking etc.



