



Sermon Discussion Guide

JULY 28, 2019 • HOW TO SAY, 'THANK YOU' • STEVE DENEFF
PSALM 100

ACCEPT

When was the last time our group or team gathered for fun? Schedule a time for the group to have fun together.

ENCOURAGE

"Blessings crown the head of the righteous,
but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked." **Proverbs 10:6**

- What were the positive, encouraging experiences people saw this week? Where might God have been in those situations?
- What were some of the difficult situations or experiences of the week? Where might God have been during those times?

Share Scriptural words of encouragement with each other based on how you have been praying for each other this week.

TEACH

Teaching Summary

Saying "thank you" is one of the first things we learn as a child, yet the words can seem shallow when there is lots to be thankful for. Perhaps that is the plight of most, even poor Americans. The more we have, the more we notice what we don't have. Yet "thanksgiving" and "praise" (v.4) mean something different in the Psalms. Here they are not just words, but rituals. They are not just manners, but ways of life. What if saying "thank you" is more than good etiquette; what if it's good therapy? And what if it changes more than our attitude; what if it actually changes the outcome? At the heart of Israel's worship (v.2) is the knowledge that we belong to God (v.3) and that it is his nature to take care of his own (v.5).

Review Questions

1. Do you feel this group/team/organization is a safe place to share your questions, doubts, or hurts? Why or why not?
2. What hurts would you like to share? What questions or doubts about God do you have? (These don't need to be solved by the group, just heard.)
3. Spend some time share thanksgiving (something God has done) or praise (what God is like). What are the primary ways you have experienced God over the years that lead you toward praise?

Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

REFLECT AND CORRECT

Reflect on these words from Psalm 139

You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

- What do these verses bring to your mind? Share what comforts you in these verses. Share what is challenging about these verses.

SERVE

- Share some ways you are currently seeking to grow or change. Ask your group to hold you accountable to these growth areas in specific ways.

PRAY

Here is a guided prayer based on Psalm 100. The leader can start and people in the group can finish each sentence.

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness.”

(give people a moment to be silent and listen)

- “Know that the Lord is God. I am trying to control something that belongs to you. I surrender my...”
- “Give thanks to him and praise his name. I thank and praise you for...”

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Amen.

*Share ways you can pray for each other over the coming week.
Spend time praying with each other now, listening to God for ways to pray.*