

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Thanksgiving 2018

These questions are for the **November 18, 2018** sermon, "Gates with Thanksgiving." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 100) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THANKSGIVING, CONSIDER . . .

1. Our call for giving thanks to the LORD (1-2)
 - a. "Give a blast," or "loud trumpet sound" of thanksgiving.
 - b. Offer thanks in good times and hard. In plenty or in want.
 - i. Thanks should be given "to the Lord," not to self, or fate.
 - ii. God is sovereign and good, even if 2018 has been terrible or unfulfilling.
 - c. All the earth should thank the Lord for he has established Salvation (Psalm 95).
 - d. We should "come into his presence" or, "be moving toward" the Lord.
2. Our reason for giving thanks to the LORD (3)
 - a. The LORD is personal, faithful and loving.
 - b. The LORD has made us, and we belong to Him!
3. Our guidance for giving thanks to the LORD (4-5)
 - a. Enter his gates (he provides access for those who belong to him) with thanksgiving.
 - b. Help everyone to understand how great is the name of our Lord.
 - c. His steadfast love is eternal, and we will bask in it forever!
 - d. His faithfulness is eternal, and it is available in every generation; to every generation!

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Every one of God's children should make loud, unmistakable, clear and regular statements of thanksgiving to God for "all the earth" to hear. Give yourself a grade with regard to how REGULARLY you thank God for "all the earth" to hear. Give yourself a grade with regard to how LOUDLY you thank God for "all the earth" to hear. How can you improve at "joyful noise" thanksgiving? What obstacle is slowing you down?
2. Based on #1, above: Even if you are hurting, or have had a difficult 2018 or seem to be lacking resources, yet we should thank the Lord. Respond to this statement: "Don't confuse the nature of God with the nature of 2018."
3. Based on #2, above: The LORD has worked out his promises and provided the one-and-only way of Salvation. God's love is real and true if you are broke, exhausted, disappointed or despairing. Is this enough to produce thanksgiving in your heart and from your lips? Respond to this: "The security of my salvation in Christ Jesus cannot be touched no matter how bad 2018 has been."
4. Based on #3, above: In this short Psalm, we are called to draw near to the Lord at least three times (v. 2, 'come into his presence'; v. 4, 'enter his gates'; v. 4, 'enter his courts'). In what ways do you 'draw near' to the Lord in good times? In hard times?
5. Based on #3, above: In "blessing" God's name, it's as if the whole world must look at God when we open our mouths. Give an example or two of how you could improve in this area.