

Thanksgiving



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From Thanksgiving to Thanksliving

Small Group Work Sheet

November 25, 2012

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

Where did you go for Thanksgiving? What did you eat?

Part 2 - Sermon Review

1. In the Old Testament, how many times a year did they celebrate a national holiday of thanksgiving? What were the names of those holidays?
2. Besides national holidays, how was thankfulness part of the rhythm life for God's people?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:14-15. What is always the reflex response to the experience of God's grace in a life?
4. How do these verses help us stay thankful when the chips are down? Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:31; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 2:9
5. How frequently should a gratitude color our prayers? Will you take the challenge and make a time of thanksgiving part of all your prayers this week?
6. Read Psalm 69:30-31. Why does the offering of an expensive animal please God less than offering genuine thanks?
7. Read Psalm 51:17. What must be the state of our heart if true worship is to flow from our life?
8. What is the antidote to a grumbling or bitter spirit?

BONUS: My favorite song as a teenager was "Thankful Heart" by Petra. It is a great closing song for you small group. Hear it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YM8EhUpUDPQ>

Part 3 - Digging Deeper - How do I give a thank offering?

In the Old Testament, when God's people were filled with thankfulness, they gave a thank offering (Jeremiah 17:26; 2 Chronicles 29:31; Psalm 56:12). In the New Testament, the sacrificial system is no longer active. How can we give a thank offering today?

Romans 12:1 tells us we are to present our bodies as living sacrifices, which is our act of worship. How do we present our bodies as a living sacrifice? Delightful obedience to God's word. We do not strive for holiness to be saved. We are saved by Christ. We live a life of holiness *as a thank offering* to God for what he has done.