

Our Savior's Lutheran

Songs for the Soul Bible Study



Week Three ~ Psalms & Songs of Thanksgiving

Bible Study Participant Guide

Welcome and Framing

Who or what are you grateful for right now? Why?

Notes:

Large Group Teaching

Remembering Gratitude and Grace ~ Remembering Becomes Resistance

Key Ideas:

- Our brains are wired to notice _____

- Thanksgiving Psalms celebrate _____
- Praise Psalm Structure: Trouble Remembered, Cry for Help, Divine Intervention, and _____
- Thanksgiving Psalms were not simply shared in the best of times or when life was perfect but rather because God had remained _____

Notes:

Reading: Psalm 118

What did you notice?

Notes:

Table Conversation 1

Discuss one or two of the following questions:

1. How is thanksgiving being expressed through memory and storytelling in this Psalm?

2. Why is remembering important spiritually?
3. What stories of survival or grace shape your life?

Notes:

Song Listening 1: “Unanswered Prayers” by Garth Brooks

What did you notice?

Notes:

Lyrics

Just the other night at a hometown football game
My wife and I ran into my old high school flame
And as I introduced them, the past came back to me
And I couldn't help but think of the way things used to be

She was the one that I wanted for all times
And each night I'd spend praying that God would make her mine
And if He'd only grant me this wish I wished back then
I'd never ask for anything again

Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers
Remember when you're talking to the man upstairs
That just because He doesn't answer doesn't mean He don't care
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers

She wasn't quite the angel that I remember in my dreams
And I could tell that time had changed me in her eyes too it seems
We tried to talk about the old days, there wasn't much we could recall
I guess the Lord knows what He's doing after all
And as she walked away, I looked at my wife
And then and there I thanked the good Lord for the gifts in my life

Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers
Remember when you're talking to the man upstairs
That just because He may not answer doesn't mean He don't care
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered
Some of God's greatest gifts are all too often unanswered
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers

Table Conversation 2

Discuss one or two of the following questions:

1. Where do you hear thanksgiving in this song? What is the artist thankful for?
2. How does this song express thanksgiving through memory and storytelling? How do you? How does this connect with faith for you?
3. Why is remembering important in this song? In your faith?
4. How does this song connect with the scripture and Psalms of thanksgiving?
5. What stories of grace shape this song? How does this connect with your life and faith?
6. What topics and emotions are named in this Psalm and song? How are these topics and emotions expressed in church life - or your life outside of the church?

Notes:

Song Listening 2: “Thank You” by Dido

What did you notice?

Notes:

Lyrics

My tea's gone cold, I'm wondering why
I got out of bed at all
The morning rain clouds up my window
And I can't see at all
And even if I could, it'd all be grey
But your picture on my wall
It reminds me that it's not so bad
It's not so bad

I drank too much last night, got bills to pay
My head just feels in pain
I missed the bus and there'll be hell today
I'm late for work again
And even if I'm there, they'll all imply
That I might not last the day
And then you call me
And it's not so bad, it's not so bad

And I want to thank you
For giving me the best day of my life
Oh, just to be with you
Is having the best day of my life

Push the door, I'm home at last
And I'm soaking through and through
Then you handed me a towel
And all I see is you
And even if my house falls down now
I wouldn't have a clue
Because you're near me

And I want to thank you
For giving me the best day of my life
And oh, just to be with you
Is having the best day of my life
And I want to thank you
For giving me the best day of my life
Oh, just to be with you
Is having the best day of my life

Table Conversation 3

Discuss one or two of the following questions:

1. Where do you hear thanksgiving in this song? What is the artist thankful for?

2. How does this song express thanksgiving through memory and storytelling? How do you? How does this connect with faith for you?
3. How does this song connect with the scripture and Psalms of thanksgiving?
4. What aspects of the Psalm structure are present in this song?
5. How might this song affirm that thanksgiving Psalms are not simply shared in the best of times or when life is perfect, but rather because God remains present with us?
6. What topics and emotions are named in this Psalm and song? How are these topics and emotions expressed in church life - or your life outside of the church?
7. What other songs could we have chosen to connect with Psalms of thanksgiving?

Notes:

Wrap Up

Thanksgiving in scripture is not generic positivity. It is gratitude shaped by remembering what God has carried us through.

As we listen to brief reflections, note what stays with you.

Notes:
