Give Thanks to the Lord

Discussion Guide for November 21 & 22, 2026

Summary

In Psalm 118, David calls God's people to give thanks to the Lord because He is good and His steadfast love (hesed) endures forever. The message shows that we can thank God for who He is and not only for what He does: for His goodness and love, for being on our side, for His loving discipline, and above all for the salvation we have through Jesus, the rejected stone who became the cornerstone. Thanksgiving is not one day a year but a daily act of worship.

Ice Breaker

Thanksgiving is almost here! What is one food, tradition, or memory from past Thanksgivings that you look forward to most? Or share a person you are thankful for and why you appreciate who they are, not just what they do for you.

Key Verses

1. Psalm 118:1-29
2. Isaiah 54:10
3. Deuteronomy 8:5
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
5. Matthew 21:42
6. Acts 4:11

Discussion Questions

1. The message encouraged us to say "I thank God for..." instead of "I am thankful for..." so that our thanks stays centered on Him. Psalm 118:1 gives thanks for who God is (good) before anything He has done. Why is it easy to thank God only for what He does for us, and how can we thank Him for who He is, even when a prayer seems unanswered?

2. The message described *hesed* as a covenant love that is strong, steadfast, and never ends, unlike the love we experience in this world. How have you seen God's steadfast love shown to you this year?

3. In verses 5-9, David was in distress but could say, "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear." When you are in a season of distress, what do you tend to trust first: your resources, other people, or your own abilities? What would it look like for prayer to be your first response?

4. David admits in verse 18 that God had disciplined him, yet he still gives thanks. The message said not everything bad is a punishment from God, but that His discipline flows from a Father's love. How do you tell the difference? Is there a hard season where, like Corrie and Betsie ten Boom with the fleas in cellblock 28, you can see God using something you disliked for your good?

5. Psalm 118:22 is a prophecy about Jesus, the rejected stone who became the cornerstone. Why is our salvation the most important thing to thank God for, and what is one practical rhythm you could build this season to thank Him daily as an act of worship?

Life Application

This week, set aside time to reflect on how God has shown you His love this year: answered prayers, strength in hard seasons, and growth through His Spirit. Write out a note of thanks to the Lord using "I thank God for..." and keep it somewhere you will see it. Then make thanking God a daily habit, even for the hard things. Come ready next time to share what you thanked God for and how it affected you.

Key Takeaways

1. Thank God for who He is, not just for what He has done. Our thanksgiving should be rooted in God's eternal character: He is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.
2. God is on our side. Because He is for us, we can face distress without fear and trust Him instead of the people and powers of this world.
3. God's discipline comes from a Father's love. Not every hardship is punishment, but whether a season is discipline or simply life in a broken world, God can use it for our good. May we be thankful for the fleas.
4. The most important thing to thank God for is our salvation through Jesus, the rejected stone who became the cornerstone. One day we will walk through the gates of heaven and see Him face-to-face.
5. Thanksgiving is worship, and it is a daily practice, not one day a year. Give thanks to the Lord,for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!