



“Giving thanks to God!”

Psalm 118

As we come to the annual “Thanksgiving” weekend, let’s think about why and how we give thanks to God.

Psalm 118 is a great example of thanksgiving to God, incorporated by Israel in their Passover liturgy. It gives us some key elements of what it means to give thanks to God.

This Psalm (along with Psalm 110), is intensely messianic and thus the most quoted by the New Testament (in Matt. 21:9, 42; 23:39; Mark 11:9-10; 12:10-11; Luke 13:35; 19:38; 20:17; John 12:13; Acts 4:11; Heb. 13:6; 1 Peter 2:7).

It begins and ends with...

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. *(Psalm 118:1, 29)*

Our _____ to give thanks. *(Psalm 118:1-4)*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ² Let Israel say, “His love endures forever.” ³ Let the house of Aaron say, “His love endures forever.”

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say: “His love endures forever.”

Why do we “give thanks” to the Lord?

Our thanksgiving to God for _____

_____. *(Psalm 118:5-21)*

When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place. ⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? ⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

Our thanksgiving for Jesus Christ, our

_____. *(Psalm 118:22-26)*

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

Our ongoing _____ to give thanks to God. *(Psalm 118:27-29)*

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Alliston Alliance Church
small group
Discussion Guide

Thanksgiving message

“Giving thanks to God!”

Psalm 118

These notes are based on the message given by
Pastor Brian Reynolds on Sunday October 11, 2020.

Introduction

This week we take a break from our study of Mark’s gospel and the topic of “Following Jesus” to focus on thanksgiving, since it is that time of year.

Psalm 118 is a great example of thanksgiving to God, incorporated by Israel in their Passover liturgy. It gives us some key elements of what it means to give thanks to God.

This psalm is intensely messianic and thus the most quoted by the New Testament (in Matthew 21:9, 42; 23:39; Mark 11:9-10; 12:10-11; Luke 13:35; 19:38; 20:17; John 12:13; Acts 4:11; Hebrews 13:6; 1 Peter 2:7). It begins and ends with...

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Let’s use it to focus on why we give thanks to the Lord.

Icebreaker

Think of a time when you were overwhelmed with thankfulness. Whatever happened caused a surge of focused thanksgiving in your mind, heart and body. When was that? Do you ever think back on that time?

Read through Psalm 118 together and open in prayer.

1. As you read this Psalm, what did you notice about each of the verses? What is the key word?
2. How does the Psalmist understand God’s work in his life? What does he say God does for him? Does that surprise you?
3. The Psalmist seems to have endured a great trial. Can you relate to that? Did God do anything that caused you to give Him thanks?
4. Read Matthew 21:33 -46. As you read Jesus quoting v.v. 22, 23, how do you think his listeners would understand this? (Also look up Isaiah 28:16).
5. In verses 14 and 21, The Psalmist says the Lord has become his “salvation”. What does that mean in the context of this psalm? How do you recognize that in your life?
6. What are the key characteristics the Psalmist mentions as reasons for giving thanks to God? Do you focus on them in your thanksgiving?
7. What changes to your prayer life might come from this Psalm?

Praying together

Have an extended time of thanksgiving to God, using this Psalm. Use any information from this Psalm to inform your thanksgiving to God.

Pray for each one to be full of thanks always to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for one another in your Small Group to develop as followers of Jesus through these studies.

Continue to pray for our ongoing pastoral search.

Pray for one another’s needs.

Next week: “When Jesus shares His power.”