

Connection Group Bible Study 11/14/2018

Thanksgiving

7:00 Open in Prayer

7:00-7:30 Talk/Fellowship/Ice Breaker

7:30-8:20

Announcements:

Give Thanks. Give Back. If you would like to get involved by volunteering the day of, or if you would like to donate food, please talk to Felicia. If you know of a family that is in need of a meal talk to Felicia about getting an application or have the family call the church at (916) 375-0066 or fill out the application online at www.wearejoy.church/givethanks.

Next Wednesday November 21st is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day so we will all be coming together at the church for our annual Thanksgiving service. The last Wednesday of the month we will be having our normal Night of Worship.

Connection Groups will be on a break for the month of December. We will have Wednesday night services at the church in December. Connection Groups will pick back up in January! Also...we're looking for more facilitators and host homes. If you'd like to be considered for either please talk with Pastor Brandon.

For the month of November we are going to be doing a study on Thanksgiving. Last week we talked about what being thankful means and the importance of showing thanks in all circumstances.

Can anyone share anything that stuck out to them from last week's study?

Did studying thanksgiving make you more aware of showing gratitude throughout the week?

In the study last week it was stated that the Word has a lot to say about being thankful. **Why do you think God felt it was necessary to include the subject of Thanksgiving so much in the Word?**

Read the following quote and discuss what it means to you:

Theologian C.H. Spurgeon said, "We ought not to leap in prayer, and limp in praise."

Tonight we are going to be some powerful Psalms that focus on praise and thanksgiving. Through our study we are going to be doing an activity that will get us to write our own personal songs of thanksgiving to God.

Read Psalm 100 (Discuss what the Psalmist is expressing thanks for)

Read Psalm 19:1-14 (Discuss what the Psalmist is expressing thanks for)

Read Psalm 34:1-22 (Discuss what the Psalmist is expressing thanks for)

The entire book of Psalms (including the ones just read), were written by real people, living very real lives, going through real life events. The times have changed but this remains true...**the only thing we have any control over in life is our reaction to it.**

What do you think would happen if in life your first reaction was to sit and write a song of thanks and praise to God?

This brings us to our activity. The paper handed to you has a prompt on it. This prompt is to help us assume a posture of gratitude before the Lord by creating our own personal songs of thanksgiving to him. Use this activity as a daily practice to get into more freely and naturally living a life of Thanksgiving.

Close in Prayer

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(Group Activity)

Our God is good and his love is eternal. Let's follow David's lead in **Psalm 100** by humbling ourselves in gratitude before the Lord. Complete the song of praise below with your own words of thanks.

v. 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

v. 2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

(Write down a triumphant praise!)

v. 3 Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who has made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

(Write down something to celebrate who God is and who we are to him)

v. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

(Give thanks to God and praise His name!)

v. 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

(Write a way God has been good to you!)