



Study Guide for Thanks Living November 22, 2009

Open Up

Share with your group a light-hearted Thanksgiving memory that is not connected to the traditional meal,

for example traveling for the holiday or a family recreational activity. **TRANSITION:** Though Thanksgiving might not be as "cluttered" as other major American holidays, we still can benefit from focusing on Bible truths about giving thanks to God.

Dig In

1) Read Deuteronomy 8:7-18. What reminders do these verses give to people who are receiving God's blessing? Though your group may not have anyone who has journeyed through physical wilderness, what are some other emotional or spiritual deserts God has guided them through? **OPTIONAL:** Read Matthew 6:25-34. In these tough economic times, some Christians may feel they don't have much for which to be thankful. What can all of us learn from what Jesus teaches?

2) Read Proverbs 30:8-9. Does your group know anyone who represents one of the two extremes mentioned in Proverbs? How can Christians stay focused on God if they are extremely rich or poor? **OPTIONAL:** Jesus probably had Proverbs in mind when he used the phrase "daily bread" in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Discuss the connection between praying for God's kingdom to come here on earth and making God's kingdom a higher priority than worrying about "future food." (Matthew 6:25-34).

Work On

Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-5. Though the background of these verses concerns financial giving, we can make the connection that general gratitude to God flows into specific gratitude to God for people He has guided into our lives. Ask your group to share examples of people God has guided into their lives for whom they are grateful.

Lift Up

As you prepare to pray, think about the link between prayer and thanksgiving Paul makes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "pray ceaselessly, give thanks always." Your group could choose to pray for the people the group listed in the previous "Work On" section.

Another Step – Advanced Study

Read Psalms 136. Though the repetition of the phrase "His love endures forever" could feel tiresome to some modern readers, the writer wants to emphasize God's love for his people in many circumstances, from the wonders of creation to military victory over enemies. The "Work On" section emphasized personal thanksgiving, but now ask your group to share examples of local church or world-wide church thanksgiving.