

COMMUNITY GROUP THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Various Passages

GROUP LEADERS

Thanksgiving Season

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

This week, consider taking a break from the normal routine of sermon questions. Below are some suggestions to help you make your group time memorable during this special time of year.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What are some of your favorite Thanksgiving-season traditions? Do you have any traditions from your childhood that you still keep today? Are there any new traditions that you'd like to start this year?
- Why do you think our culture tends to skip over Thanksgiving and rush right from Halloween into Christmas?
- Brainstorm a few ways that your group can serve others during this holiday season. (Check out the Saylorville Heart For Des Moines opportunities online)

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES) PICK ONE PASSAGE, OR DISCUSS ALL THREE

#1 - Psalm 75

- A. **Read:** Psalm 75 from The Message Paraphrase of the Bible (On the reverse side of this sheet)
- B. **Worship:** Based on this Psalm, what are some of God's "mighty works" (vs. 1) that you are thankful for?
- C. **Pray:** Stop and praise God for those blessings right now as a group.

#2 - Luke 17:11-19

- A. **Read:** Luke 17:11-19 from the New International Version
- B. **Worship:** Briefly tell your salvation story and talk about what God saved (and continues to save) you from.
- C. **Pray:** Thank God out loud for the way He has healed your soul.

#3 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- A. **Read:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 from the English Standard Version
- B. **Worship:** Sing praise songs together in response to God's greatness (Ask someone to bring their guitar, or click the links below for the lyric videos):
 - A. [Jesus Is Better](#) - Austin Stone
 - B. [Goodness of God](#) - Bethel Music
 - C. [Way Maker](#) - Leeland
 - D. [Revelation Song](#) - Jennie Lee Riddle
- C. **Pray:** Simply complete this sentence out loud, "God, because you are so great, I will respond by _____."



Psalm 75

The Message Paraphrase

1

We thank you, God, we thank you—
your Name is our favorite word;
your mighty works are all we talk about.

2-4

You say, “I’m calling this meeting to order,
I’m ready to set things right.
When the earth goes topsy-turvy
And nobody knows which end is up,
I nail it all down,
I put everything in place again.
I say to the smart alecks, ‘That’s enough,’
to the bullies, ‘Not so fast.’”

5-6

Don’t raise your fist against High God.
Don’t raise your voice against Rock of Ages.
He’s the One from east to west;
from desert to mountains, he’s the One.

7-8

God rules: he brings this one down to his knees,
pulls that one up on her feet.
God has a cup in his hand,
a bowl of wine, full to the brim.
He draws from it and pours;
it’s drained to the dregs.
Earth’s wicked ones drink it all,
drink it down to the last bitter drop!

9-10

And I’m telling the story of God Eternal,
singing the praises of Jacob’s God.
The fists of the wicked
are bloody stumps,
The arms of the righteous
are lofty green branches.

16-20

All believers, come here and listen,
let me tell you what God did for me.
I called out to him with my mouth,
my tongue shaped the sounds of music.
If I had been cozy with evil,
the Lord would never have listened.
But he most surely did listen,
he came on the double when he heard my prayer.
Blessed be God: he didn’t turn a deaf ear,
he stayed with me, loyal in his love.