



Group Leader Guide
Series: Give Thanks
Scripture: Psalm 138

Leader Notes:

Be sure to sign up for the mandatory group leader training in January by clicking this [link](#).

This week is a stand alone message focused specifically on helping Christians enter into the holiday season in a mindset of thankfulness and praise. The proper disposition for Christians is one of praise. Psalm 138 shows us what that disposition looks like in real life and challenges us to adopt it for ourselves.

COMMUNITY

Open the group by caring for one another and allowing a moment for everyone to have a place to belong.

- Start the group by taking prayer requests, finding out about people's week, and praying for one another.
- Opening Questions:
 - Share with the group one thing that you are thankful for in this season of your life?
 - Why is it so hard to be important sometimes?

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT: The path to a deeper relationship with Jesus starts and ends by staying connected to Jesus.

Give Thanks to the Lord

138 Of David.

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.
On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ps 138:title–8.

Study Notes

Psalm 138 is a declarative praise. In other words, it is a personal declaration of praise in the midst of the watching world. This might raise a convicting question for each of us: when was the last time that you made a declaration of praise? When was the last time that you were so

overwhelmed by the goodness of God in your life that you praised him in the midst of the watching world?

A couple of things stick out about this declaration of praise.

First, this praise comes as a result of God's deliverance in the midst of difficult circumstances. This is important for us to see. The praise is not a result of good circumstances. The praise is a result of God's presence in the midst of difficult circumstances. We often don't want to experience bad days, but it's the bad days when we experience a good God.

Second, take notice that all of the things that God is praised for in this Psalm are seen most clearly in Christ. God is praised as glorious, accessible, and faithful. The full manifestation of these attributes of God are seen most clearly in Christ and his work for us. In other words, if you need a reason to praise God, start by looking to Jesus.

Questions For Discussion

Has there been a time in your life where you have seen God work for you in difficult circumstances?

How does Psalm 138 encourage us to keep the faith despite facing difficult days?

What are the ways that we see God's faithfulness to us in the work of Christ?

What does it mean that God regards the lowly? How does this impact the way we live our lives?

How does our praise serve as a witness to a watching world?

Commission

As your wrap group up, it is imperative that everyone knows we go into the world on mission for Jesus. Use this time to focus everyone as you leave.

How can you move into this holiday season thankful for what God is doing in your life, even if things are difficult?

Who in your life needs to know Jesus?