

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **November 23, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Voice of Thanksgiving." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 116) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD, FOR . . .

1. **He has heard our prayers** (1-4)
 - a. Don't simply "Cry out." Continue to cry out over and over again.
 - b. When it feels as though he is looking away, God is bending his ear toward his own.
2. **He has intervened in our lives** (5-11)
 - a. We stop thanking God when we feel we are not getting enough of what we think we deserve.
 - b. We stop thanking God when we feel we are getting too much of what we do not deserve.
3. **He is worthy of our praise** (12-19)
 - a. Visual--worship God publicly.
 - b. Verbal--praise his name to all who will listen.
 - c. Vows--pay your commitments to the LORD.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: What is the area of your life that needs intervention by God? Do you cry out regularly/repeatedly to God regarding this area?
2. Based on #1, above: The psalmist is "in distress" but not focused on his distress. He is focused on God's track record of hearing and responding to his prayers. In what way is this true of you?
3. Based on #2, above: God is gracious, righteous and merciful (v. 5). Discuss this: We stop thanking God when we feel like we are not getting enough of what we think we deserve. And its corollary, we begin thanking God when we know we are getting more good and gracious gifts from him than we deserve. Is there something you think you deserve (and not receiving) that is impeding your gratitude? What is it?
4. Based on #2, above: We stop thanking God when we feel like we are getting too much of what we do not deserve. and its corollary, we begin thanking God when we know he is not giving us the punishment/judgment that we deserve. Are you aware, day-by-day, of the kinds of punishments and judgments that you should be receiving from God? What are they?
5. Based on #3, above: What should you give the LORD for all his benefits? Do you worship him publicly? Do you praise his name in word? Do you make and keep personal vows to him? These things should not be showy, but they should be done.