

# An Invitation to Thanksgiving

## Psalm 95

Life Group Discussion Questions – November 6, 2022

**Psalm 95:1-3** ‘O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.<sup>2</sup> Let us come before His presence with <sup>[a]</sup>thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with <sup>[b]</sup>psalms.<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God. And a great King above all gods, <sup>4</sup>In whose hand are the depths of the earth, the peaks of the mountains are His also. <sup>5</sup>The sea is His, for it was He who made it, And His hands formed the dry land.’

What Thankfulness **LOOKS** like vs. 1-2

- Our loud, **EXPRESSIVE** voices
- Presenting songs and words of **GRATITUDE**

Who Thankfulness is **LINKED** to vs. 3-7

- The LORD is a **GREAT** God vs. 3-5
  - He is on a list of **1**
  - He holds all the earth in His **HAND**
- The LORD is **OUR** God vs. 6-7
  - The **PHYSICAL** posture of gratitude
    - He is **OURS** and we are **HIS**

How Thankfulness is **LOST** vs. 7-11

- Forfeiting a **SOFT**, trusting **HEART**
- **MERIBETH** and **MASSAH** are places Ex. 17:2-7
  - A generation of **TESTERS** and **COMPLAINERS**

### DISCOVER

1. What family Thanksgiving celebrations do you remember from your childhood? Why were these celebrations memorable? What was the focus or reason for the gathering?
2. Why do you think the author of Psalm 95 twice had to encourage the reader to move to a place of thankfulness (vs. 1, 6)? What aspects of the coming Thanksgiving holiday point to God? Of course, it is good to give thanks. Do you have some traditions of giving thanks that are special to you and your family?
3. The ‘All in’ vision focus at AGCC has been an opportunity in recent years for looking forward to expanding the Kingdom. In the Old Testament, God gave special holidays for remembrance. How does remembrance of our great God influence your willingness to partner in expanding the Kingdom?

### EXPLORE

1. Read Exodus 17:2-7. What do you observe about the attitude of the people who God had rescued from Egypt? How do you distinguish between thankfulness and testing God? How does God distinguish based on this section of scripture?
2. When giving thanks, it is easy to focus on things of the world, instead of the gift of the **Person** of God. Read Psalm 95:6-11. What does it mean that ‘*He is our God*’, and that ‘*we are the people of His pasture*’? What warning do you see about losing our gratitude? How have you experienced this?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-6. How did the churches of Macedonia bring together the reality of grace, attitude and giving? What lessons can the modern church learn from this? What can you do to be a part of this type of love and support at AGCC?

### EXPERIENCE

1. What connection do you see between God’s saving grace and your heart for giving thanks? How do you express gratitude to God for His saving grace? Are you working on ‘paying back God’ what He has given you? How does this, in some ways, nullify the Cross? What is the condition of your heart as you see the grace of our great God?
2. What happens in your heart when you combine tradition, gratitude for His grace, and giving? Giving money to God may be hollow if we don’t first give ourselves. What does God want from you that goes beyond gifts?

### PRAY

*Pray... Thank you Father for your saving grace. May our hearts be full of gratitude. Please show us how to give back to you with right hearts. We know we can never out-give or repay you for salvation but out of our love may we be generous with our time and money. Amen.*

*Action... Encourage your family to have an attitude of grateful remembrance. But first, spend quiet time thanking God for His grace and love.*