

Real-World Help

Guest Speaker: George Youstra

God Uses People as Real-World Help

Genesis 22:1-14

Life Group Discussion Questions – November 17, 2024

Colossians 3:16-17 *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

DISCOVER

1. What one thing has God done for you this past year that you are grateful for? Other than Jesus Himself, what is the one thing in your life you are most thankful for?
2. Col. Youstra talked about how God often brings His *Real-World Help* by bringing the right person along at the right time. Have you experienced a time when God brought you help by bringing the right person into the situation at the perfect moment?

EXPLORE

1. Read Genesis 22:1-14. Discuss what it would have been like for Abraham to NOT bring a ram to sacrifice, thinking his son was to be it. Then how God provided a ram at the needed moment. How can you **be a 'ram'** in the life of someone else?
2. Read Colossians 3:16-17. How can we let the word of Christ richly dwell in us? What will this look like when a person does this? What does it mean to admonish others with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs? Why must we give thanks to the Father through Jesus?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. This short passage is laden with absolutes. Is it possible to be joyful...always? Explain. Pray without ceasing...isn't that unrealistic? How can we do this? And finally... to give thanks in all circumstances...how can that be possible in such a hurting and broken world? How can we give thanks in everything? What principles from the Bible can help us to do this? These absolutes all sound very impractical to accomplish, yet, this is precisely God's will for us. Is He being unreasonable and too demanding? Why or why not?

EXPERIENCE

1. How can "rejoicing always" shape your perspective on life's challenges? What strategies can help in cultivating a spirit of unceasing prayer and gratitude, even in difficult circumstances?
2. Reflect on the times God has brought another into your situation to bring His help. Thank God for those 'rams' in your life.
4. Read Psalm 100. What does entering God's gates with thanksgiving mean to you personally? How can you show thankfulness to God in your everyday actions? How can we translate the spirit of Psalm 100 into practical acts of service towards others? How can we cultivate a more profound sense of gratitude, as suggested by Psalm 100, in our present-day society?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude as we celebrate the Thanksgiving feast. We come to Your table with great joy and anticipation to be in Your presence, for You have brought us so much help in our times of need. Thank you for bringing people in our lives that have helped us so much. We are sweetly overwhelmed by Your grace, Your mercy, Your real-world help. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus. We pray in His name. Amen.