

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - -
Topic - Thanksgiving That Leads To Worship

Date - 29-Dec-2019
Speaker - Lam Zhengxin

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Fairest Lord Jesus
2. Blessed Assurance
3. Living Hope

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Have a posture of thanksgiving towards God;
2. Let our gratitude be focused on God, leading us to worship Him; and
3. Commit to the spiritual discipline of knowing God intimately.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Our thanksgiving must lead to Worship; and
2. God's ultimate desire is for us to know Him.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

The sermon started off with a touching testimony from Emily and her son, Shaun, on God's goodness over the last ten years in guiding them through broken relationships, death and loss. They are overflowing with thankfulness. Looking back, God's glory is displayed when they trusted Him each step of the way. They have learnt His amazing faithfulness and grace.

Zhengxin then preached from Luke 17:11-19, which was about Jesus healing of ten leprosy men. Only one of them turned back to glorify God with a loud voice and gave thanks to Him. Why did he turn back? While Jesus was known primarily as a "miracle worker" and was called "master", that is, a person of authority, the other nine leprosy men did not fully appreciate or acknowledge Jesus by giving God the glory. The one man,

a Samaritan, had a revelation of who Jesus is. God's healing is more than the physical, it is about the eager anticipation of God and His kingdom. This Samaritan worshipped Jesus, and in the process, received more than physical healing and was restored spiritually.

Zhengxin shared two applications from this Biblical event:

- a. Our thanksgiving must lead to worship
Thanksgiving is our response to what God has done for us. Worship is our response to who He is. Worship is not so much something we do. Rather, it is our response to who God is. Worship is not only a matter of choice; it should be based on revelation, that is knowing who God is. Our worship should be as a result of this overflow of thanksgiving to God!
- b. God's ultimate desire is for us to know Him
Knowing God is relationship. Everything that God allows to happen and work in our lives is an opportunity for us to know God more. True healing is a spiritual one, that is, to know our need for God, and to see and know Him as our personal Saviour, Lord and Friend.

There is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God at an intimate level. Zhengxin exhorted us to grow in intimacy with God by moving beyond viewing our times with God, including our thanksgiving, in a transactional and self-centred manner and towards building a close relationship with Him for who God is.

Discussion Questions

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." As the year 2019 draws to a close, what in the past year can you be thankful for?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is an ice-breaking question. As the year draws to a close, it is a good spiritual exercise to think through and reflect on God's faithfulness and goodness in our lives. Similarly, Ephesians 5:20, James 1:17 and Psalm 95:2 are Bible verses that exhort us to adopt a posture of thanksgiving and gratitude to the Almighty God, our Father.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

As Zhengxin shared in his sermon, while it is good to have a heart of thankfulness for the things that God has given us or have done in our lives, it is not enough for us to stop there. Thanksgiving should lead us to worship God. This leads us to reflect on what these thanksgiving items have taught us in knowing God.

2. **In the year 2019, what have you grown to know God more? Share with the group one attribute or nature of God that you have clung onto in 2019.** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

Leaders can encourage members to reflect on what God is saying to them during this season of life.

Perhaps, for some of us, 2019 could have been a difficult year of trials, should members bring these up, Leaders should allow members the opportunity to process through them

so that they can articulate how God has preserved their faith even during a difficult period. Psalm 31:19 encourages us to know God as Lord and to take refuge in Him.

Through the sharing of what happened in 2019, members can share items of thanksgiving and how each of the item is associated to God's nature and His promises in the Word. For example, Galatians 5:22-23 and Philippians 4:8 speak of His love, faithfulness, peace, joy, etc.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

Isaiah 43:18-19 encourages us not to dwell on the past and to focus on the "new thing" that God is doing.

3. Read Isaiah 43:18-19. As we start the new year of 2020, beyond new year resolutions, we can commit to know God more. How can you get to know God more? [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

As we start the new year, it is time to ponder and look up to God for His presence and guidance. This is a response question. For 2020, let the focus of our prayers be one of knowing God more, and beyond, just knowing more about God or camping on our list of "self-centred" prayers.

The following are some practical questions to ask prayerfully for 2020 (adapted from Ed Stetzer's Some Personal Reflection Questions for this New Year):

- a. *What is one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?*
- b. *What is the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?*
- c. *What is the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?*
- d. *In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?*
- e. *What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?*
- f. *What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?*
- g. *For whose salvation will you pray fervently this year?*
- h. *What is the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?*
- i. *What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?*
- j. *What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?*

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting To Cell & Closing The Discussion)

Leaders can wrap up the discussion by encouraging members to commit the responses to God in prayer. The group can break up in pairs to pray.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

We will always have a posture of thanksgiving towards God that is focusing on Him, leading to worship and intimacy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Overcomer: An Evangelistic Movie Event**

Organised by Men's Fellowship

Thu, 9 Jan 2020 | 7.30pm | Salt Media @ Capital Tower, Level 9

* *Invite your pre-believing friends!*

Scan the QR code to register for complimentary tickets.

Kindly indicate if you need dinner in your registration.



Church Vision

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.