

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 11.27.2022

THANKSGIVING -NUMBERS 6:22-27;
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18; LEVITICUS 23:39-43

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

This last weekend, we heard from Dr. Erez Soref who is president of Israel College of the Bible and One For Israel. He was Born in Israel and comes from a traditional Jewish family. He first heard the Good News of Messiah while backpacking in Europe after his military service, and became Messiah’s follower shortly thereafter. He is married to Sisi, also a born Israeli, whose family is unique in the Land of Israel as she is a fifth generation Jewish believer in Messiah Yeshua. Today, we will look at why we give thanks to the Lord while considering the Jewish Feasts and other passages. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you from this week’s sermon?
2. When people celebrate Thanksgiving together, what are some common reasons they give for being thankful?
3. Agree or disagree with the following statement: “There is always something to be thankful for.” Explain your answer.

We all know that we’re supposed to be thankful, especially at Thanksgiving. But what if you don’t feel thankful? What if everything in your life is going wrong? Does God expect you to be thankful then? Is it even possible? In today’s discussion, we’ll take a look at some passages from both the Old and New Testaments to find out the answer.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ NUMBERS 6:22-27.

1. From these verses, what is the source of our blessing and reason for thanksgiving?
2. How does this passage help you understand what it means to be “blessed”?
3. Why do you think God took the initiative to assure His people of His intention to bless them, rather than waiting for them to ask?

Israel’s priests were given this blessing by God, not to ask God for blessing, but to assure them of His blessing. God is the source and substance of our blessings (James 1:17)—not our circumstances or relationships with other people. As such, our thanksgiving is not dependent on positive people or circumstances; our thanksgiving is dependent upon God’s presence in our lives. As recipients of His eternal lovingkindness and grace, we are kept for God and by God, even in times when our life isn’t what we want it to be.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 .

1. When we talk about God’s will for our lives, would you say most people think about the call to be thankful? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Paul used the word “all” here? Did he really mean “all,” or are there some exceptions? Explain.
3. Why is it God’s will for us in Christ Jesus to give thanks in all circumstances?

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Paul had Jesus’ example as a firm foundation for these words. When Jesus was sharing the Passover meal with his disciples, Scripture tells us He gave thanks (Matthew 26:26-28). He was about to go to the cross and endure unfathomable pain and suffering. His thanks wasn’t based on His present circumstances. Hebrews 12:2 tells us why Jesus was able to give thanks.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LEVITICUS 23:39-43

1. How is the Feast of Tabernacles like our celebration of Thanksgiving in America?
2. In what ways do we need to be reminded to be thankful?
3. What happens to our hearts when we forget all the good that God has done in our lives?

The final feast, of the people of Israel, was the Feast of Tabernacles. This feast lasted for one week. Its purpose was to remind the Israelites how they had lived in tents for forty years in the wilderness. For this week, the people were to live in small booths (brush arbors) to remind them of the fact that they had lived in tents as they traveled toward the land that God had promised to them. In the past, as well as in the present and future, all of those who have placed their trust in Christ are just travelers here on this earth. Tabernacles reminds us that the Lord Himself is coming to Tabernacle or dwell among His people and we look forward with thankful hearts for that day.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

In application to the message that we should remember and declare the goodness of God, my wife and I would like to take this time to again declare His lovingkindness and express our deepest appreciation for all your love and prayers during our deepest, darkest hour in life during her battle with Covid one year ago. We thank God for her miraculous healing and now she is back to health and in the ministry. Here is a link of her video testimony update of her experience with God during her darkest hour while in the shadow of death. God bless you. Here is Beth’s testimony <https://youtu.be/yRoVrzWppRA>

1. Share with your groups the things God has done in your past to be thankful for?
2. What effect does having a grateful heart have on your attitude and countenance?
3. What thanksgiving will you declare to your family, friends and neighbors to give glory for what God has done in your life?

PRAYER - Thank God that He is the source and substance of our thanksgiving. Ask Him to help you keep your eyes fixed on the future weight of glory that waits for you as you endure the difficulties of this life. Invite Him to give you opportunities this week to tell others about the thankfulness you have as a child of God and heir of His promises.

“O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.” 1 Chron. 16:34

REVIEW: Why Thanksgiving:

1. TO LOOK BACK - To thank the Lord for all His grace, love and mercy upon us.
2. TO THANK GOD FOR THE PRESENT. Focus on His word, His revelation, and be part of His great plan to encourage those around us.
3. LOOKING AHEAD – Messiah is coming back soon! We are God’s ambassadors to a needy world.