

A Life of Gratitude Psalm 118

Read/Reflect

- 1. Read Psalm 118. The Context of this Psalm seems to be a great victory in battle. God saved His people and given them a new start. What event do you think they are celebrating?
- 2. How does the whole of this psalm help you to understand what's going on in the Palm Sunday story (see Ps.118:24-26 and the quotes in Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9-10; Luke 19:38; John 12:13)?

Explore

- 1. Share about a time in your life when you experienced a "victory." It may be a huge test, a health concern, a financial problem or interpersonal struggle. How did God provide?
- 2. How do you greet the day?
- 3. The Psalm begins and ends with the same line. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." How did God provide for His people? How has God's love endured? How do we experience the enduring love of God?
- 4. Helping people sometimes creates an unhealthy co-dependency in which a progression develops that starts at being thankful for help, slowly moving towards expecting help, and finally falling into entitlement ("you owe me the help"). God has helped us a lot with many gifts, and continues to bless us in many ways. When do you get caught up in the progression towards thinking you deserved everything you have (and perhaps wanting still more)?
- 5. We receive each day from God and this means that we should be stewards of this Gift. What does stewardship of each day and everything look like for you? Is it any different than, "this day is mine!" as expressed, for example, in the "seize the day" attitude of YOLO ("you only live once")?
- 6. How has Jesus given you a new start in life? What does it mean to live by grace?

Pray

- Pray that the Thanksgiving holiday may be a time in which you are refreshed to live a life of gratitude.
- Confess to God the times in this past year when you have taken God's good gifts for granted.