

DISCUSSION GUIDE
Thankful? For That?

Text: Lamentations 3:19-26

Warming Up

1. What are you thankful for?
2. How have you shown or expressed your thanks?

Digging In

Read Leviticus 7:11-15; 1 Chronicles 16:1-4; Psalm 118:19-21

1. Giving thanks was an integral part of the faith and worship of ancient Israel. Are there ways we continue the practices of giving thanks as outlined in this passage?
2. What new ways of giving thanks have become part of faith, life, and worship?

Read Lamentations 3:19-26

1. Pastor Craig noted the Jeremiah's circumstances when writing these words. Jeremiah recounts the siege and fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in Jeremiah 52. Do you think it would be possible to give thanks during such deprivation and disaster?
2. What mercies did Jeremiah see?
3. How was God with the people of Judah (Jeremiah 33)?

Read John 16:31-33

1. What did you think about Pastor Craig's recounting the illustration of the lost man and Eskimos? Does it describe your understanding of faith? Why or why not?
2. Pastor Craig said his understanding of the reality of life's difficulties comes from the Biblical account of the Fall. What are your foundational understandings of why we experience and see trouble?
3. Pastor Craig said the incarnation is God being with us and proof of God's unending love. Have you ever felt that God has left? Did you come to feel God's presence? How?
4. Does your faith in Jesus move you to thankfulness? How? When?

Sending Out

Thankfulness is easy when life is good. And it is appropriate to give thanks. Faith allows thankfulness when life is not good, even downright terrible. And thankfulness enables faith to continue.

Closing

Thankfulness acknowledges God's presence and love. How do you experience God's presence in a way that prompts thankfulness?

Close in Prayer