Thankfulness Small-Group

Psalms 136:1–26

A Thankful People

A two-week small-group study of Psalm 136:1–26

(November 5th & 12th)

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Senior Pastor



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O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.
3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.
4 To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.
5 To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.
6 To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever.
7 To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:
8 The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:
9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.
10 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:
11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:
12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.
13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:
14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:
15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.
16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.
17 To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:
18 And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:
19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:
20 And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:
21 And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever:
22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever.
23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:
24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.
25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.
26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Participants' Guide

Lecture Outline

1. The call to Thanksgiving vv.1-3
• His goodness (1)
• His greatness (2-3)

2. The causes of Thanksgiving vv.4-25
• The Lord created all things (4-9)
• The Lord controls all things (10-24)
a. The Lord delivered Israel (10-15)
b. The Lord directed Israel (16-22)
c. The Lord defended Israel (23-24)

3. The conclusion of Thanksgiving vv.26

Week 1: The God who is good, Creator, and Deliverer

Read Psalm 136:1–15 together. In the KJV text below, "mercy" carries the sense of God's enduring, faithful love.

Psalm 136:1–15 (King James Version)

1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.
2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.
3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.
4 To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.
5 To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.
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8 The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:
9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.
10 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:
11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:
12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.
13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:
14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:
15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Observe

1. What reasons for giving thanks appear in verses 1–3? _____

2. What works of God are named in verses 4–9? _____

3. What does the psalm remember about Israel's rescue in verses 10–15?

Reflect

What does this passage show you about God's character? _____

Which part of creation or daily life do you most often overlook as a gift?

How can you remember God's goodness without pretending that painful things are not painful? _____

Practice this week

Write one thing you are thankful for each day. Include one ordinary gift, one person, and one way you have received help.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Week 2: The God who leads, remembers, rescues, and provides

Read Psalm 136:16–26 together.

Psalm 136:16–26 (King James Version)

16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.
17 To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:
18 And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:
19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:
20 And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:
21 And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever:
22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever.
23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:
24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.
25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.
26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Observe

1. What does God do for Israel in verses 16–22?

_____
_____
_____
_____

2. What words describe God's care in verses 23–25

_____
_____
_____
_____

3. How does verse 26 bring the psalm to a close?

_____
_____
_____
_____

Reflect

Where do you need God's guidance more than a quick answer?

_____
_____
_____
_____

What provision can you thank God for today? _____

_____
_____
_____
_____

Who might need practical help or encouragement from you this week?

_____
_____
_____
_____

Practice this week

Choose one action: thank someone directly; share food or practical help; pray for someone facing hardship; or make time to listen to someone who feels overlooked.

My action:

_____
_____
_____
_____

When I will do it:

_____
_____
_____
_____

Closing Prayer

God of heaven, thank you for your goodness and enduring love. Thank you for the world you made, for your care through difficult seasons, and for the gifts we receive each day. Help us remember those who feel low or forgotten, and make us ready to serve them. Teach us to give thanks honestly, with room for both joy and sorrow. Amen.

Annotated Bibliography

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