



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

Thankful for
the Rewards
of God

Thankful for
Our Future

MIDWEEK GUIDE

Thankful for
the Promise
of Christ

2016

November

Your small group does not need to answer every question provided in the Midweek guides. There are a range of questions so that each group can answer questions that are applicable to them and that they are comfortable with. Also, take your time with discussing the questions and don't feel the need to rush through them in order to answer every one.

2016 November MIDWEEK GUIDE

Session 1: Thankful for the Rewards of God

Bible References

Matthew 19:27-28

Matthew 20:1-15

Acts 2:37-47

1 Corinthians 15:28

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16. Comment on the complaints brought by those hired early in the day when they heard the wage paid to those hired late in the day. Did they have a basis for complaining? Comment on the landowner's response.

2. What does this parable tell us about entitlement? Seniority? What does Ephesians 2:8-9 tell us about entitlement? Seniority?

3. Discuss how the characteristics of the wages distributed in the parable relate to the reward that awaits the souls on the Day of the Lord.

4. Think about what Jesus is trying to tell us when He says the reward is the same for us all. Minister, widow, child, those faithful for 75 years, and those that have been faithful for 1 day...the reward is the same and no one can deserve it. What does that tell you about the fairness of God?

5. How do we feel when it seems like God is being more generous to another than to us? What can we learn from watching God pour His generosity onto someone that we don't think deserves it?

6. The disciples were required to follow Jesus, yet Mary, Martha, and Lazarus could stay at home. Peter died a martyr and yet, John was spared. Our District Apostle said in a service recently, "Comparing is a horrible disease." Why do we compare?

7. Do we work or serve God and our neighbor out of love or for a reward? Is it okay to serve solely out of the desire to receive rewards from God?

8. The video said that in order to put Christ at the center of our lives, we must "decide for the Lord every day anew." How can you do this?

9. The rewards of God are great and are offered to all people. What are some ways we can share the rewards we hope for with others?

10. How can we understand the verse, "So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen," in a new way?

Session 2: Thankful for Our Future

Bible References

Revelation 21:3-4, 5

Genesis 3:15

Matthew 28:20

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

1. Discuss the importance of Matthew 28:20 as we ponder over the events of our lives and what we have to be thankful for.

2. While life today can be very difficult, refer to the Apostle Paul's comments in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 and discuss his comments on this topic.

3. *Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them...* What does it mean to you that God dwells with you? Can you think of a recent situation in your life, where this verse could bring you strength?

4. *To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything.* – Thomas Merton / What do you think this quote means?

5. Why do you think that us living on the earth with our suffering is part of the plan of salvation?

6. How is God making you new right now? (Revelation 21:5)

7. Discuss how your confidence in God has grown throughout your life. Did your confidence grow more during difficult times or happy times?

8. How does it become possible for Christians to give thanks to God when living through difficult times?

9. Describe how the promises of God in Revelation 21 assist you in working through the challenges you are battling against today?

Session 3: Thankful for the Promise of Christ

Bible References

2 Corinthians 1:20

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 12:3

Genesis 22:18

Isaiah 62:11

Jeremiah 31:33

John 14:3

1. What does the promise of Christ mean to you, especially in this approaching season of Advent?

2. What can you do to keep alive the promise of the Holy Spirit in your life?

3. Read Jeremiah 31:33. How has God put His law in your mind and heart? How can you make that promise relevant in your life?

4. What promise from God that Christ fulfilled gives you confidence in your life?

5. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit. Do you ever think of the Holy Spirit as the fulfillment of one of God's promises dwelling within you? How does this impact how you allow the Holy Spirit to guide your life?

6. Are you growing in your expectation of Jesus' promises? Is your hope increasing? How are these expectations and hope changing your life?

7. Do you remind yourself of God's promises during the moments of celebration or just during moments of sadness? What are some ways to remind yourself of God's promises daily?

8. How does your personal thanksgiving connect to Advent?
