

Discussion Guide

“Close & Connected: Giving Thanks”

July 24, 2022



Big Idea

We can praise (thank) God, because of His sovereignty, even in our disappointment.



Icebreaker

What is something that you experienced over the last week that you are grateful for?



Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-2. What is David realizing here? Is there an area of your life, or experience, where you have been blessed and just feel the need to share that out and honor God with? What is it and how do you, or how may you, go about honoring God with that?
2. Read 2 Samuel 7:4-7. Have you ever just felt that you had this vision, or plan, that was so “of God” and/or so good for you but that as you began journeying down the path you realized that you weren’t quite correct? What did that feel like? How did you deal with that? Does this make the importance of regular prayer (specifically listening prayer) critical? And if so, how and why?
3. From verse 4 we see that this message from God for David came through Nathan. When you have an idea, or a prompting that you feel is from God, who are the one or two people in your life whom know you well and who you feel can and will pray through it with you and give you good and Godly advice regarding it? If you don’t have these one or two people, what is your next step to get those kinds of people in your life? Being honest, how well are you at seriously listening to and considering the heeding of such advice?
4. Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17. Here we see God remind David of His provision in the past. From there He speaks of His plan to provide in the present and the future. This reminds us of the power or remembering God’s provision in our own past. What are examples of that which you are thankful for which God did in your past? Are there any, that in the moment you were disappointed by, but now, in retrospect, realize were a blessing? How does that help us face our present and future?
5. Continuing to reflect upon verses 2 Samuel 7:8-17 note all of the specific forms of encouragement the Lord gives to David. What does providing encouragement in the face of what may seem a disappointing response from God allow for David to do? What are things you or I must be doing and engaging in to help us realize encouragement as we journey through the ups and downs of our life? Are you in a “good” spot with this, or no?



Concluding Question

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-19. What is David’s posture in this prayer and what is he communicating to God? May we always see God’s greater plan? If we don’t, how are we to respond to that?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

- Help us, in the face of disappointment, to keep seeking You, God. And to trust Your greater plan.