

Family Group Midweek Lessons

November 20, 2013



Minneapolis | St. Paul | Church of Christ

November 20

Thankful for the Unshakable

This Family Group Bible-Talk is intended to supplement the November 17th sermon at the MSPCOC. Although having attended or listened to that lesson is helpful, it is not required to take part in the following discussion.

Opening Activity:

- Give everyone a 1/3 of a piece of paper
- Ask each person to write down on the paper the three things that they are most grateful for (ask them to be truthful but not too specific because they don't want people to immediately be able to tell who wrote it. For Example: Rather than writing, "I'm grateful for Jane, John, and Biff," or even "I'm grateful for my wife and two sons," they should just write "I'm grateful for my wife and kids," or "I'm grateful for my family.")
- Collect all of the papers and read them one-by-one in no particular order, including your own
- After each one is read, ask people to write down on another piece of paper who they think wrote it
- Once finished with all of them, quickly go back through each one and ask the author to take claim for it.
- Ask each person there to keep track of how many they guessed correctly and see who got the most right (just for fun)
- Explain that you are going to talk about understanding and being grateful for God's kingdom tonight

Read: Hebrews 12:18-21

Group Questions:

- Why do you think God came to the Israelites in such an awesome and powerful manner?
- Why do you think the author brings up this picture of Mt. Sinai?
- What are the advantages to fearing God? Can that be taken to negative extremes in any way?

Read: Hebrews 12:22-24

Group Questions:

- *The author makes clear here that he wasn't writing about Sinai to scare us but to steady us*
- In what way does he do that? How does what he says encourage Christians?
- What does it mean that Jesus' blood "speaks a better word than the blood of Abel"?

Read: Hebrews 12:25-28

Group Questions:

- In what ways can we refuse "him who speaks"?
- What are some things in this world that can be shaken?
- What cannot be shaken?
- What happens when we forget that either the things that can be shaken will be or that the things that cannot be shaken will not be?

Read: Hebrews 12:29

Group Questions:

- Are you still thankful for God's kingdom?
- Do you still worship God in your life, in your quiet times, and anywhere else with reverence and awe or do have you started to take God casually?
 - Respond to the following statement:
 - "When we treat holy things casually, when we stop taking our shoes off before the burning bush, it is we who change not the bush."

Final Thoughts:

- Find someone this week (a neighbor, co-worker, etc.) with whom you can share why you are thankful for God's kingdom.
- Spend some time contemplating whether you still approach God with reverence and awe or whether you have become *too* casual in your response to God.



Inner Action Ministries