



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

04/10/2016

God intended that we live in the abundance of his presence and he makes makes this possible. The third aspect of experiencing God's presence comes through an understanding of the *shelamim* sacrifice—offering of well-being or peace offering.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What did you come away with from Sunday's message? Which story or answer to prayer stood out most?
2. John made the statement, "Jesus is my answer." What does he mean by this?
3. The *shelamim* sacrifice (detailed in Leviticus 3) is a response of gratefulness and celebration for God's provision. Do you consider this one of God's roles? What is he supposed to provide? How do you know?
4. This sacrifice was optional and could be offered anytime the worshipper wanted to give God thanks and celebrate God's provision with others. Why was this offering important to the worshipper's relationship with God? How did sharing it impact the experience?

5. Read Psalm 100. Does this perspective of experiencing God surprise you or resonate with you?
6. What does Psalm 100:3 indicate regarding God's role in our lives? How does the Israelite analogy of Shepherd and Sheep impact your understanding of God's relationship to those who follow him?
7. What is the cause for such expressions as "make a joyful noise," "worship with gladness," "enter with singing," "enter with thanksgiving and praise," and "give thanks"? (Cf. Deuteronomy 12:7; Psalm 107:21-22)
8. Hebrews 13:15-16 challenges those who have experienced God's provision and presence to continually offer him praise. Based on these verses what are two specific ways you can offer this praise?
9. Are you able to identify times of God's blessing, provision and grace in your life? If so, how have you acknowledged and responded to these?
10. Individually, or as a group, take a few minutes to reflect over the past year. Write down 3-4 instances where you can give credit to God for something in your life. Discuss ways to celebrate these.

MOVING FORWARD

In the prior two weeks, John has highlighted "Jesus as Savior" and "Jesus as Sustainer". These two beliefs require humility but their acceptance leads to gratefulness. This week, focus your prayers on giving thanks and remembering previously answered prayers.