

The Gospel Project for Adults, Fall 2017
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Special Session (Thanksgiving)

Introduction: *Connect the topic with common life.*

Encourage your class members to think about some of the key celebrations of life. Record their responses on the board or a large sheet of paper. Ask this question: “How do we usually let other people know about these great events?” Discuss responses.

Point out that while we use different methods to announce special events, we tend to make sure others know about the happy things we experience. Share that today’s lesson focuses on how we can share the great things God does for us to a world that really needs to hear about Him.

Point 1: *Look at a Puritan prayer for grace.*

Read Isaiah 12:1-2 and talk about how God reveals His grace through these words. To illustrate our need for God’s grace, share the following portion of a Puritan prayer:

Thou makest me possess the sins of my youth,
and the dreadful sin of my nature,
so that I feel all sin,
I cannot think or act but every motion is sin
Return again with showers of converting grace
To a poor gospel-abusing sinner.
Help my soul to breathe after holiness,
After a constant devotedness to thee,
After growth in grace more abundantly every day.

[Source: “Need of Grace,” *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, ed. Arthur Bennett (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2002), 99.]

Discuss how this prayer reflects the heart of Isaiah in verses 1-2. Emphasize that God’s grace isn’t just about forgiveness and salvation. Say something like this: “It should prompt us to praise God—and to let others know how much grace He has show toward us.”

Point 2: Utilize a “Pair and Share” activity.

Direct class members to take 30 seconds and reflect on the following question: “How do you know Jesus’ promise of salvation is real?”

After time is up, encourage each of them to share their response with someone sitting next to them who is not their spouse.

Give a few volunteers time to share their responses. Highlight the truth that God’s promise of salvation in Jesus is trustworthy—and this provides assurance that our salvation is true. Say, “That assurance is something we should be sharing with others when God provides the opportunity.”

Point 3: Note that praise is an action verb.

Direct a volunteer to read Isaiah 12:4-6 and encourage the other class members to listen for words that express activity in these verses.

Say something like the following: “What are some of the action verbs you heard in the passage?” Write their responses on the board or a large sheet of paper.

Highlight that each of these actions are related to proclamation, and each one is directed toward God’s greatness and glory. Ask, “What does this tell you about our response to God’s glory and greatness? How should this impact the way we relate to others each day?” Discuss responses.

Share the following quote from A.W. Tozer:

In almost everything that touches our everyday life on earth, God is pleased when we’re pleased. He wills that we be as free as birds to soar and sing our maker’s praise without anxiety.

Point out that if we look carefully and intentionally, we can find reasons to praise God—and share Him with others—in every avenue of our lives.

Conclusion: Consider an example.

Prepare to show class members the clip from *Chariots of Fire* found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ile5PD34SS0> (1 minute, 2 seconds).

Share that missionary Eric Liddell has a chance to run in the 1924 Olympics. But he has to make a choice—a choice that his sister, Jenny, is worried

about.

After viewing the clip, ask this question: “What sticks out to you about this clip?” Discuss responses.

Highlight the fact that Eric wanted to praise God in two ways. First, he knew that he was honoring God simply by running because he felt His pleasure when he ran. Second, he also knew that he could honor God through winning, not only showing the world the gifts God had given him but also what it means to be a strong Christian living within the culture.

Challenge your class members to look for ways they can praise God through the “ordinary” things in their lives—using the gifts and talents God gave them for His glory. Remind them that they have much to be thankful for—and that their thanksgiving should point others to God.