



### Introduction

What songs have you been playing on repeat lately? For me it's \_\_\_\_\_.  
What about Thanksgiving foods?

[Leader note: tell a quick and funny story here about a concert you went to, a song you and your friends use to have dance parties to, or a favorite Thanksgiving memory that you wish you could relive.]

### Tension

I love Thanksgiving, I just kind of wish it was in January or February.

We need these holidays to remind us to pause, reflect, and count our blessings.

You NEED built in boundary lines for downtime.

[Leader note: Tell a story here about a time in your life when thankfulness got you through a difficult moment or season of life and maybe how you have fought for more “downtime” without a screen so you could be thankful.]

### Bible

In the Old Testament, the Israelites expressed their deep need for God through this sacrificial system and ultimately it pointed to a future reality of Jesus (God Himself) being the perfect sacrifice to end all the other sacrifices.

Explain the sacrificial system and the “fellowship” or “peace” offering. There were two types of offerings.

The fellowship or peace offering was a voluntary sacrifice.

The four reasons you might make this type of sacrifice were:

1. Free Will Offering given to say thank you for unsought generosity

How quick are you to give God the credit when something good happens that you didn't ask for or deserve?

2. Alongside a Fulfilled vow

Hannah vowed to give her Samuel back to service of the temple.

For you, when God answers a prayer you prayed, do you remember to thank Him, or do you quickly go back to being self-reliant?

3. To give thanksgiving to God in a time of desperate need.

I know that I am very quick to petition God when I have a big need, but how often is my first response to thank Him for who He is and what He has done first?

4. The Israelites wanted to eat meat.

Let's be real carnivores in this room, how many of you would offer this up to God so you could get a tomahawk steak?

**Leviticus 7:11-18 (NLT)**

[Leader note: Tell a story here about a time you encountered a bull, goat, or sheep. It could be a simple story about how you grew up on a farm and what that was like, a visit to a petting zoo, a rodeo, or life-like nativity. Transition by saying something like, "My kids loved feeding Gabby the goat on vacation—can you imagine me telling them it's time to kill it and roast it because we had such a great time?"]

It feels foreign to us that part at the end about what the Israelites could and couldn't do with the leftover meat and if they were ceremonially unclean.



**Icebreaker:**

- Set a timer for one minute if necessary. Have everyone in the group share a high and a low from the week to reconnect.
- What song is on repeat for you right now?
- What Thanksgiving food do you wish was on repeat all throughout the year?
- Have everyone share any prayer requests.

**Pray:** Have students pray for the person next to them and any requests they shared to open your discussion time.

**Read:** Give out these verses to different students in your group and have them read them out loud. After they read them, have them share one thing that they learned or that challenged them from the Bible.

**-Leviticus 11:17-28**

**-Romans 12:1**

**-Ephesians 2:8**

**-Revelation 19:6-7**

**Discussion Questions:** (Circle the questions you really want to get to and don't feel like you need to get through them all.)

- Why did the Israelites have a sacrificial system? How was it different than other religions of the day?
- What were the two types of sacrifices Moses outlined in Leviticus from God?
- How quick are you to give God the credit when something good happens that you didn't ask for or deserve?
- For you, when God answers a prayer you prayed, do you remember to thank Him, or in what ways do you quickly go back to being self-reliant?
- How have you "gone through the motions" in your faith recently? What produces heart change?

- How has gratitude helped your overall health? How has this common grace from God affected your life?
- Wholeness comes from God. Where have you sought wholeness elsewhere?
- When was the last time Jesus' sacrifice for you moved you to tears?
- How have you tried to be saved by doing good works? What does justification mean?
- What would it look like for YOU to be a living sacrifice?
- What does sanctification mean? What role does the Holy Spirit play in our sanctification?
- What did the apostle John explain to us will happen when Jesus returns?
- How is Jesus the better lamb/sacrifice? Let's name as many ways as we can.
- What would it look like to thank God on repeat?
- Did anyone make a decision to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord today?

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