

***“You are My God...
...and I will give You thanks!”***

Week 1

Leader's Guide

Central Verse: *“You are my God, and I will give You thanks; You are my God, and I will exalt You.”* Psalm 118:28

Target/Goal/Focus: The objective of this study is to highlight and deepen appreciation for the truth that living a life of thanks to God flows from our confession of faith in Him.

1. Let's start here, with 1 Corinthians 12:3 and the beautiful and comforting truth it expresses – *“No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.”* So, how is it that you and I can make the confession of Psalm 118: 28 that *“You are my God”*? What does Ephesians 2:8-9 add to this? **The point here is that we are able to make the confession “You are my God” only by the grace of God. It is His gift to us, which is why it moves us to give thanks. It is also why this is so powerful in terms of moving us to respond. His grace is at the center of it all. His grace is what empowers us not only to confess Christ but also to live for Christ. Our response doesn't come from within us or from our own resources. Our response is powered by His grace.**
2. What are the blessings which are part and parcel of being able to confess, *“You are my God.”* List as many as you can, guided by but not limited to the following passages:
 - Romans 10:9 **Salvation**
 - Romans 10:10 **Justification**
 - 2 Timothy 2:12 **Preservation**
 - Acts 10:43 **Forgiveness**
 - 1 Peter 1:8 **Joy**
 - Romans 15:13 **Peace, Hope**
3. True or False. How I live my life each day is shaped and directed by my confession, *“You are my God.”*

4. Did you hesitate in answering question #3? Someone has once posed this question: “If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” As we study our confession of faith and what it means for daily living, there is another confession that we will daily need to make. What is that confession? **My failure to live out my confession of faith. I have sinned and fallen short of His glory and in bringing Him glory by failing to live out my confession of faith in Christ.** What is God’s response to such a confession? cf. 1 John 1:8-10. **His response is one of grace and forgiveness!**
5. What does James 2:12-17 have to say to us as we talk about living out our confession of faith in God? **These are some very forthright statements. Certainly they point to the importance of what we are talking about – the importance of being and doing what we confess to be – Christians!**
6. “*You are my God.*” To make that confession is, as Paul writes in Romans 8, “*to have the Spirit of God living in you.*” What hope and strength and encouragement do Paul’s words in Romans 8:9-11 give you as you seek to live out your confession in all aspects of your every day life? **By and with God’s grace, I can grow in living out the faith He has given me. Changes can be made as I am led by the Spirit of God.**
7. There are so many great examples of people changing by the grace of God and subsequently growing in living out their confession and faith in God. Take a look at Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. What do you see? **Someone who has gone from lost to found and who, as a result of that grace, began to make significant changes in life which reflected his faith and confession of who Jesus was.** Can you think of any other examples in the Bible?
8. Let’s finish this study by going back to Psalm 118 and the first four verses. What phrase dominates vs. 1-4? **“His love endures forever.”** How does this truth encourage and strengthen you in your confession, “*You are my God*”? How does this truth encourage and strengthen you to live out your confession more and more each day? **Answers will vary.**