

Date: October 9, 2011

Name: Ron Baker

Talk Title: Christian Atheist – Not thankful

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**1. Note to the Leader:**

I (Ron) want to be real clear about this HG gathering. This is more about the experience of thanksgiving, than it is about the deeper discussion. You are going to need paper, pens, and tea light candles (don't worry it's not weird). If you can't get the candles have someone in your group pick them up.

After some discussion about thanksgiving, you are going to have people write a list of things that they are thankful for. Have them write at the top of paper "Thankful to God list". Each member will share their list but before they share they have to light their candle. You can have a main candle already burning that they will use to light their candle.

Let me encourage you to take your time with the exercise. Allow the moments to happen. I suggest that you as the leader set the tone of the experience so you should go first. Please don't list surface level stuff, make this meaningful! Do the work to create moments.

**2. Connecting Questions:** (Interactive, life sharing, thought and feeling)

- How did you feel at the end of the drama when the dad quotes the last line of the project – "My parents say there is a God but I've never heard them thank Him. So, I know it's thanksgiving and I know I feel thankful, the only thing I don't know is who to thank."
- Is there a moment in the service that you felt God leaning on you?

**3. Truth Questions:** (Discovering what God says from the bible)

- Why do you think people have a hard time being thankful?
  - **To the Leader:** This is a generalization, broad stroke type statement.
- In your life do you see how you have allowed your circumstances to determine your level of thankfulness?
  - **To the Leader:** This can be a moment where there is some transparency. You might need to lead the way with your own example.
- How has being thankful changed your life? Have members talk about situations in life where they had to work hard at being thankful and how it changed them.
  - **To the Leader:** Push on them!!! No Sunday School answers here.

**4. Transformation Moment:** Read Psalm 100 (Or have someone read it while you light a candle)

- Distribute the paper and pens
- Give each member a tea light candle
- Have them start their list – before they can share list they light candle