

## discussion guide for november 12th

### Getting to "AMEN"

Psalm 106:48



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

#### ➤ Launch the Discussion (11:00 am)

The word "AMEN" sounds nearly the same in Hebrew, Greek, and English. It's meaning is rooted in the Hebrew term, which indicates firmness, dependability, certainty, and truth. The OT uses it some 25 times. Typically, God's people respond to a warning or promise from God with "AMEN." This identifies them with the warning or promise and confirms that it is true and binding on them personally.

In the Gospels, only Jesus used "Amen", often in the formula "Amen, I say to you . . ." The phrase was understood by his Jewish hearers as a strong affirmation that what Jesus was about to say was certain and reliable and must be considered binding on himself and His hearers.

The Epistles also use "Amen." It occurs at the close of prayers and in praise (Gal 1:5, p.1550-DSB\*) It is almost the same as an exclamation point, or underlining for emphasis.

Amen is also used as the response of a congregation to prayers or teaching. It is an expression of endorsement. When we say "Amen," we express our own participation in, and our commitment to, the shared faith and life of the people of God.

(From Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, Lawrence O. Richards, 1985)

After someone has read the definition of the word "Amen," divide into two subgroups. Assign one to be "pro," the other "con." For a few minutes, discuss these statements: "More people should say "Amen" in our church. When? Where? How? Why?"

#### ➤ Guide the Discussion (11:10 am)

What does it really mean to say "AMEN"?

#### 1. I Will Give Assent To These Things

Christians are accused of being "mindless." Examine these Scriptures and discuss why finding and following Christ requires all our mental faculties.

- Mt. 22:37, p. 1287-DSB\*
- Luke 15:27, p. 1369-DSB\*
- Acts 17:11-12, p. 1465-DSB\*

#### 2. I Will Put My Trust In These Things

"Amen" goes beyond mental assent. Ultimately it requires a "leap of faith." Brainstorm ways you could explain "trusting" to someone who knows all about Christianity but is struggling with placing their trust in Christ. (Hint: Rom. 10:8-13, p. 1501-DSB\*)

#### 3. I Will Live In Accord With These Things

Pastor Tom said, "Doing what God wants us to do is a big part of what it means to say 'Amen.'" How do these scriptures support that conclusion?

- Nehemiah 5:13, p. 586-DSB\*
- Romans 12:2, p. 1503-DSB\*
- Matt. 7:21, p. 1257-DSB\*

Discuss the meaning of this statement? "But understand that a relationship with Christ doesn't result from living a good life; a relationship with Christ results in living a good life."

\*"DSB" - The "Discovery Study Bibles" on common ground tables.

## ➤ Apply the Discussion (11:35 am)

We began our study by looking at the most important words of the Apostles Creed: the first 2 words—“I believe,” a translation of the Latin “credo.” Now, 9 weeks later, we conclude with an equally important word, “Amen. So, wrapped around the Christian truth are the words “Credo” and “Amen” which both mean “I agree, I put my trust in this, I’m founding my life on this.” When you take those steps, its a great adventure. To stand and say, “Credo, I believe, Amen, this is true” is to move from apathy to action, from indecision to commitment, from a life without meaning to a life with purpose. Can you truly say those words? Check all that apply!

- I believe with my whole mind in the God’s truth presented in Scripture.
- I fully trust my life earthly and eternal to God’s provision in Jesus Christ.
- I now commit to live my life according to the teaching of God’s Word.
- AMEN!!!

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for those who share things God is leading them to do in response to this lesson.
- Pray for other shared needs.
- Pray for absentees by name. (*Who will contact them this week and fill them in on group time?*)

Go Deeper: Use the “*Going Deeper*” section in your personal daily devotionals. It is a great way to strengthen and reinforce what you are learning and applying to your life.

## ➤ Going Deeper

Last Sunday you discovered the true meaning behind the word “Amen.” It involves assent, trust, and walking the walk. These readings and questions will help you affirm and review the truth of this teaching.

Monday, November 13: Read Deut. 27:9-26, p. 245-DSB\*. What do you understand to be the reason Moses commanded the people to say “Amen” after each instruction in these verses?

Tuesday, November 14: Read 1 Chron. 16:7-36, p. 506-7-DSB\*. This lengthy passage is a psalm of praise. What response did the people who heard the psalm give?

Wednesday, November 15: Read Nehemiah 8:5-6, p. 590-DSB\*. How is “amen” used in this passage? Would this ever be appropriate in a modern worship service?

Thursday, November 16: Read Psalm 106:48, p. 757-DSB\*. Do you feel comfortable saying “amen” in a service? Why? Why not?

Friday, November 17: Read 2 Cor. 1:20, p. 1535-DSB\*. All of God’s promises are fulfilled how? What do you say in response?

\*“DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” available in common ground.