

A 40-DAY FAITH EXPERIENCE



GROWTH

FIRST MELISSA

During this 40-Day Faith Experience,
First Melissa challenges you to commit to:



GROWTH
FIRST MELISSA

Attend worship each Sunday

Attend a small group

Pray and study every day using the Daily Workbook

Attend Wednesday night 40-Day services each week



GROWTH

Why 40 Days?

The number “forty” + (time period) is mentioned at least 146 times in Scripture.

It symbolizes trial, probation, or the fulfillment of promises.

It's a number associated with testing and the hardships one must endure to become more spiritually aware.

Our Prayer for 40 DAYS

so that you may walk worthy of
the Lord, fully pleasing to Him,
bearing fruit in every good work
and **growing** in the knowledge of
God Colossians 1:10 (HCSB)



GROWTH - Weekly Teaching Schedule

- G Our Father **GIVES** us all we need
- R
- O
- W
- T
- H



What is God's most important GIFT?

For the wages of sin is death, but the free **gift** [χάρισμα charisma, Greek noun] of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23



GROWTH - Weekly Teaching Schedule

- G Our Father **GIVES** us all we need
- R **REALIZE** who you are
- O
- W
- T
- H



For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

The Greek word “workmanship” (ποίημα *poiēma*) denotes a work of art or a masterpiece.

-Bible Knowledge Commentary



GROWTH – Teachings for 40 Days

- G Our Father **GIVES** us all we need
- R **REALIZE** who you are
- O **OBSERVE** His commandments
- W
- T
- H



By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

1 John 5:2-3



GROWTH – Teachings for 40 Days

- G Our Father **GIVES** us all we need
- R **REALIZE** who you are
- O **OBESERVE** His commandments
- W **WALK** in wisdom
- T
- H



How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who **walk** [הָלַךְ *halak*] in the law [תּוֹרָה *torah*] of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; they **walk** [הָלַךְ *halak*] in His ways.

Psalms 119:1-3



GROWTH – Teachings for 40 Days

- G Our Father **GIVES** us all we need
- R **REALIZE** who you are
- O **OBESERVE** His commandments
- W **WALK** in wisdom
- T **THANKFULNESS** to the Father
- H



What is Thankfulness?

Thankfulness to God is a recognition that God in His goodness and faithfulness has provided for us and cared for us, both physically and spiritually. It is a recognition that we are totally dependent upon Him; that all we are and have comes from God.

-Jerry Bridges



O Lord, surely I am Your servant, I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid, You have loosed my bonds. To You I shall offer a sacrifice of **thanksgiving** [תּוֹדָה *todah*], and call upon the name of the Lord. I shall pay my vows to the Lord, Oh may it be in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord! Psalm 116:16-19



THANKFULNESS to the Father

- Oh give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah*] to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Psalm 107:1
- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** [εὐχαριστία *eucharistia*] let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7
- Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with **gratitude** [εὐχαριστία *eucharistia*]. Colossians 2:6-7



THANKFULNESS to the Father

- O give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah*] to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting. 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be **thankful** [εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteo* verb]. Colossians 3:15
- Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of **thanksgiving** [εὐχαριστία *eucharistia* noun]; Colossians 4:2
- Let us come before His presence with **thanksgiving** [תּוֹדָה *todah* noun], let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. Psalm 95:2



THANKFULNESS to the Father

- I will give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders. I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:1-2
- Let them give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] to the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good. Psalm 107:8-9
- To You, O God of my fathers, I give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] and praise, for You have given me wisdom and power; even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, for You have made known to us the king's matter. Daniel 2:23



THANKFULNESS to the Father

- Offer to God a sacrifice of **thanksgiving** [תּוֹדָה *todah* noun] and pay your vows to the Most High Psalm 50:14
- We give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] to You, O God, we give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb], for Your name is near Psalm 75:1
- It is good to give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High Psalm 92:1
- Be glad in the Lord, you righteous ones, and give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] to His holy name. Psalm 97:12
- Let them give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] to the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! Psalm 107:21



THANKFULNESS to the Father

- always giving **thanks** [εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteo* verb] for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father Ephesians 5:20
- Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving **thanks** [εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteo* verb] through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17
- **Thanks** [χάρις *charis* noun] be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15



THANKFULNESS to the Father

- Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give **thanks** [ὁμολογέω *homologeō* verb] to His name. Hebrews 13:15
- And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, 'Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and **thanksgiving** [εὐχαριστία *eucharistia* noun] and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.' Revelation 7:11-12

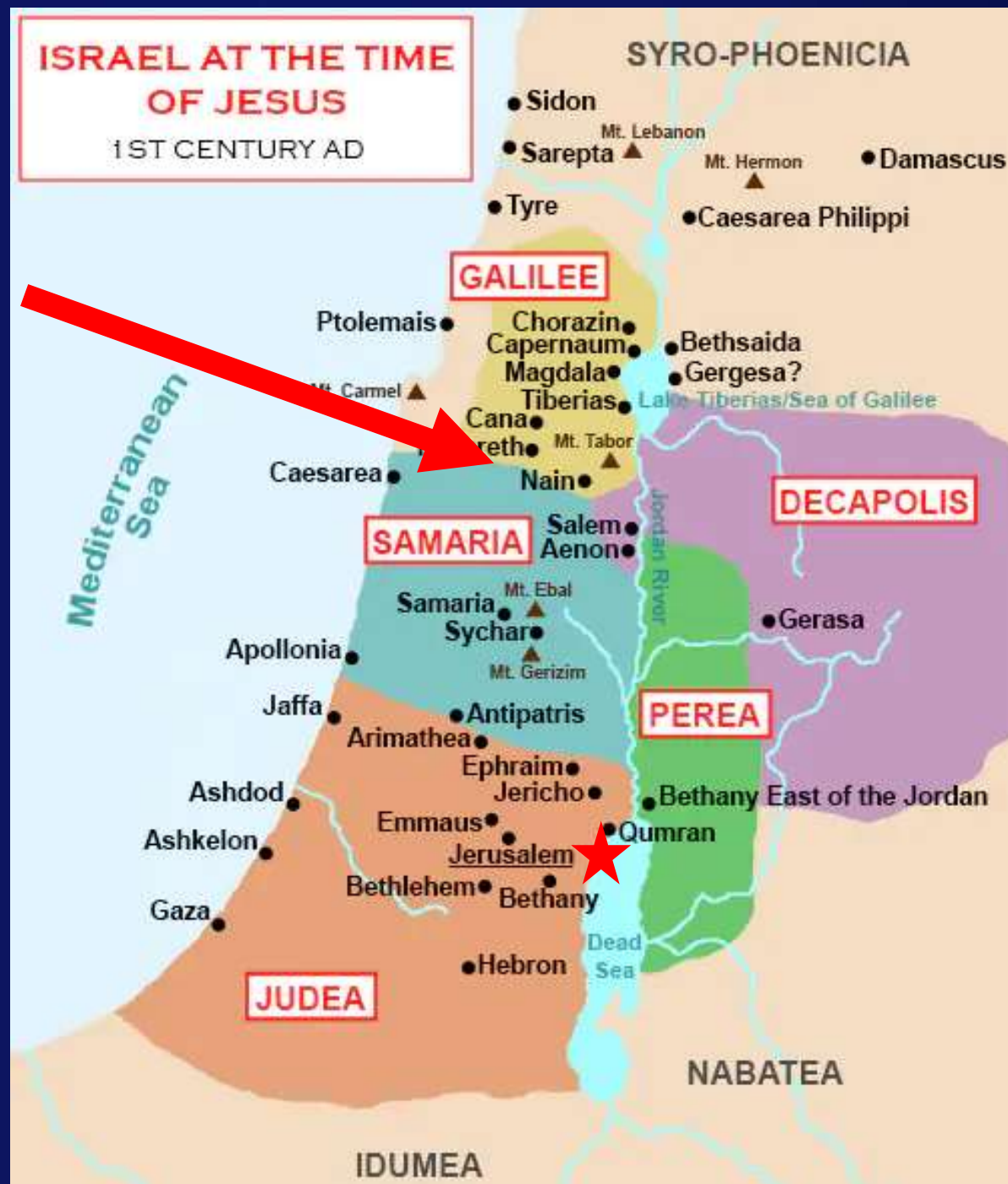


THANKFULNESS
should lead to action

Luke 17



While He
[Jesus] was on
the way to
Jerusalem, He
was passing
between
Samaria and
Galilee.
Luke 17:11



As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; and they raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” Luke 17:12-13

“As for the leper who has the infection, his clothes shall be torn, and the hair of his head shall be uncovered, and he shall cover his mustache and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ He shall remain unclean all the days during which he has the infection; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.” Leviticus 13:45-46



When He saw them, He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they were going, they were cleansed. Luke 17:14

In our culture of platform building and rising celebrity status, we forget that God values the least. He places honor on the poor, the broken, the messy, and the marginalized. The 10 Lepers were outcasts of society. Beyond just having leprosy at least one was from Samaria which would have made him the lowest of the low. He had absolutely no status and was looked down on as an untouchable. Yet, Jesus treasured each one, even the Samaritan, heard their cries, and healed them. – Becky Harling



Be Intentionally **THANKFUL**

Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving **thanks**

[εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteo* verb] to Him.

And he was a Samaritan.

Luke 17:15-16



Then Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.” Luke 17:17-19



Let's ask ourselves. Do we confessed Christians really thank God for what He has done? Do we really understand and value the significance of what He has done and is continually doing for us in our lives? Will we be like the Samaritan who glorifies God and falls down before Him for what He has done? Or will be like the other nine who simply go on and disappear after receiving what we ask God for? - JB Cachila



A lifestyle of thanksgiving

by Andy Cook

1. Be thankful even in difficult circumstances
2. Be thankful in the work of God's goodness
3. Make sure your thankfulness leads to action

Gratitude is a mindset, not a checklist. When you start with thankfulness, you are ready for spiritual growth. – Rhonda Jones



FOR WHAT ARE YOU **THANKFUL** TODAY?

Life

Children

Health

A place to live

Food to eat

The Word of God

Love

Salvation

Spouse

Friends

A job

Our nation

Opportunities

A church home

Hope

Eternal Life



What If...

You Woke Up
TOMORROW

with only the things
you had thanked

God for
TODAY

PrayersAndApples.com



The Attitude of **THANKFULNESS**

Psalm 111



Praise the Lord! I will give **thanks** [יָדָה *yadah* verb] to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly.
Psalm 111:1

“Praise the Lord” = הַלְלוּ-יָהּ Hallelujah

“Hallelujah” is found 24 times in the book of Psalms

In the Hebrew Bible “hallelujah” is actually a two-word phrase, not one word. The first part, *hallelu*, is the second-person imperative masculine plural form of the Hebrew verb *hallal*. However, “hallelujah” means more than simply “praise Yah”, as the word *hallel* in Hebrew means a joyous praise in song, to boast in God. The second part, *Yah*, is a shortened form of YHWH, the name for the Creator. -Wikipedia



Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them. Splendid and majestic is His work, and His righteousness endures forever. Psalm 111:2-3

- Have you remembered the works of God in your life?
- Have you thanked Him?
- Have you told others about His goodness?



He has made His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate. He has given food to those who fear Him; He will remember His covenant forever. He has made known to His people the power of His works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. Psalm 111:4-6

- Have we experienced the grace and compassion of God?
- We can build monuments to remind ourselves of His grace.



The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are sure (firm, unchangeable). They are upheld forever and ever; they are performed in truth and uprightness.

Psalms 111:7-8



He has sent redemption to His people;
He has ordained His covenant forever;
holy and awesome is His name.

Psalm 111:9

Thus the unmerited grace and passionate love which flowed out first in redemption, brought the Lord's people within the embrace of His covenant where they experience His providential care in daily needs, His power over all the power of their enemies, and His Word by which they live.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10

- Wise people are thankful
- Thankful people are wise



Thankfulness for what He has done

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:2-3

*Ten Commandments #1



“who brought you out of the land of Egypt”

- Exodus 3:8, 3:10, 7:4, 7:5, 12:17, 12:51, 13:9, 13:14, 13:16, 16:32, 18:1, 20:2, 29:46, 32:7, 32:11
- Leviticus 11:45, 19:36, 22:33, 23:43, 25:38, 25:42, 25:55, 26:13, 26:45
- Numbers 14:13, 15:41, 20:16, 23:22, 24:8
- Deuteronomy 1:27, 4:20, 4:37, 5:6, 5:15, 6:12, 6:21, 7:8, 7:19, 8:14, 9:26, 13:5, 13:10, 16:1, 20:1, 26:8, 29:25
- Joshua 24:5, 24:17
- Judges 2:1, 2:12, 6:8
- 1 Samuel 8:8, 10:18, 12:6, 12:8
- 2 Samuel 7:6
- 1 Kings 8:16, 8:21, 8:51, 8:53, 9:9
- 2 Kings 17:7, 17:36
- Psalm 81:10, 105:37, 136:11
- Jeremiah 2:6, 7:22, 11:4, 11:7, 16:14, 23:7-8, 31:32, 32:21, 34:13
- Daniel 9:15
- Amos 2:10, 3:1, 9:7
- Micah 6:4

***80 passages
reminding
people of the
same event!**



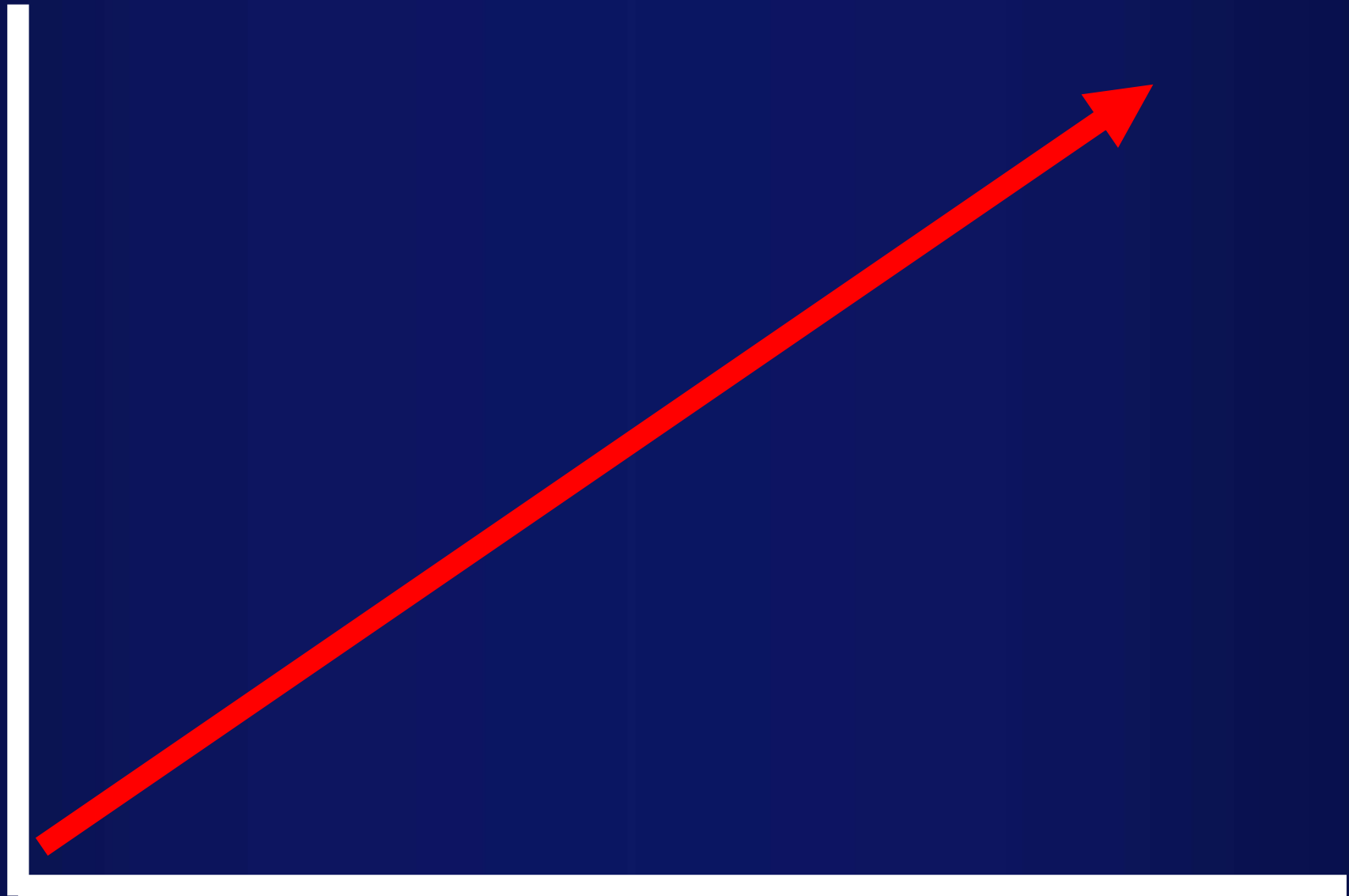
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Could we graph
Thankfulness?

Thankfulness

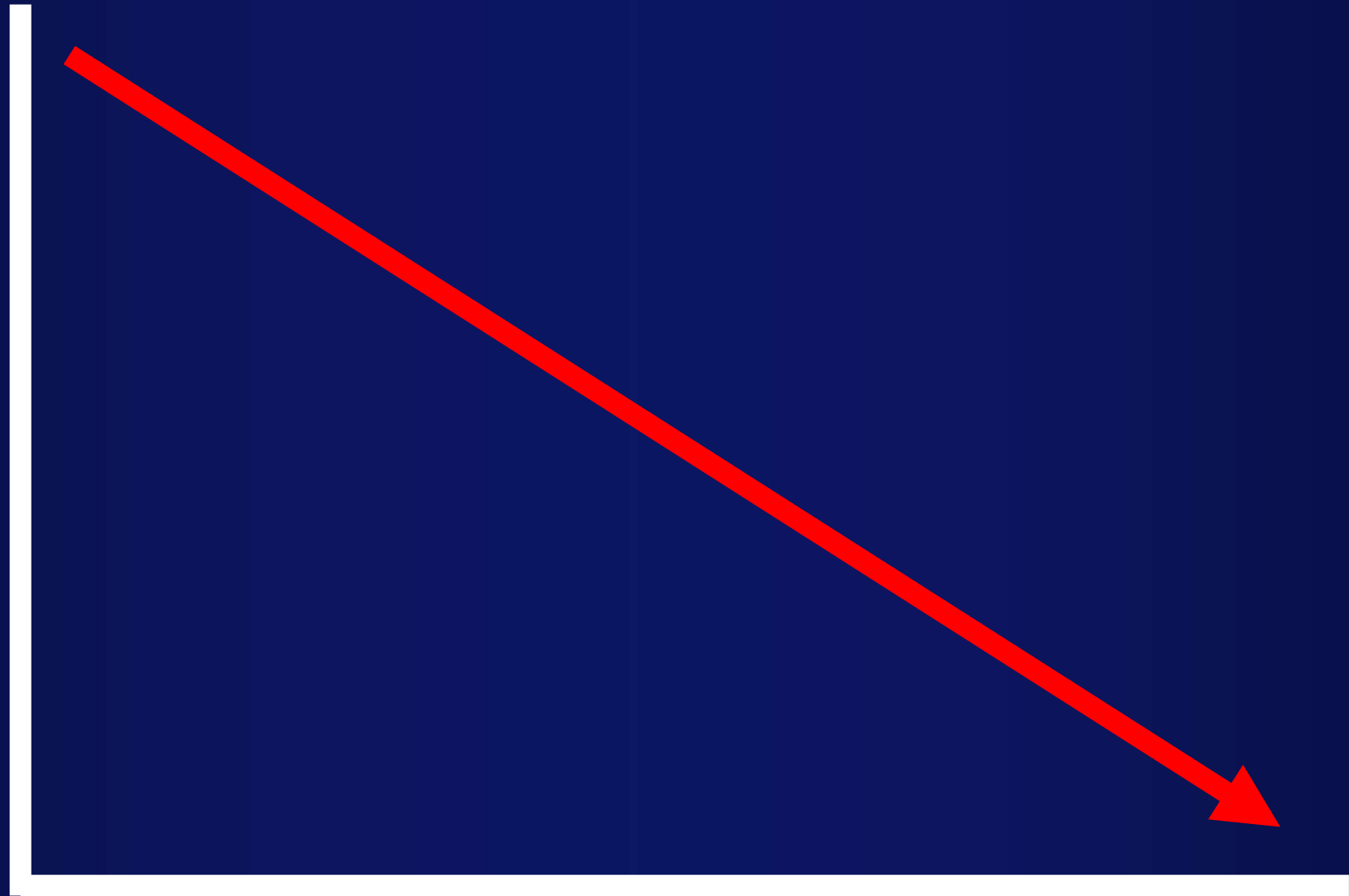


Humility



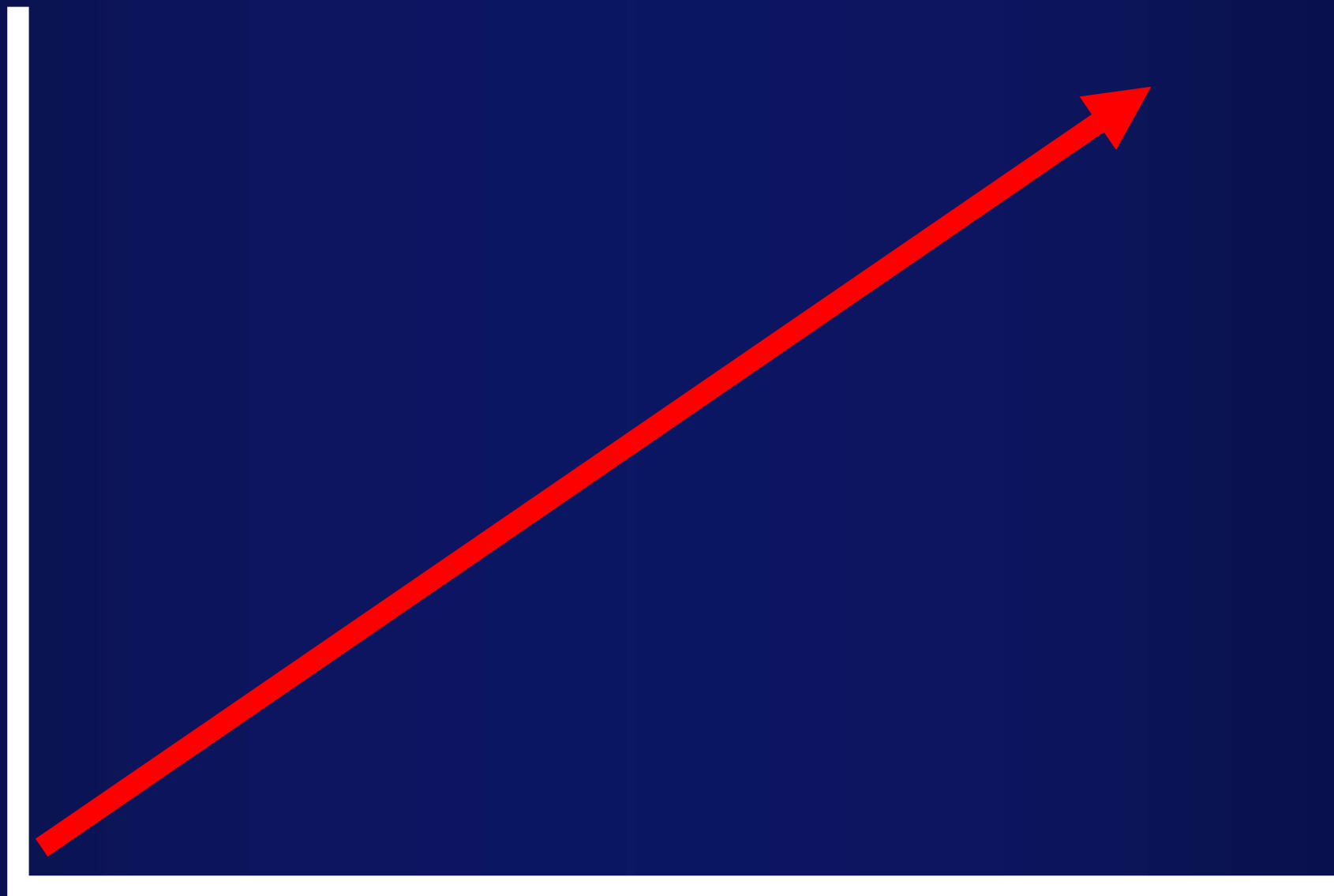
Thankfulness

Pride



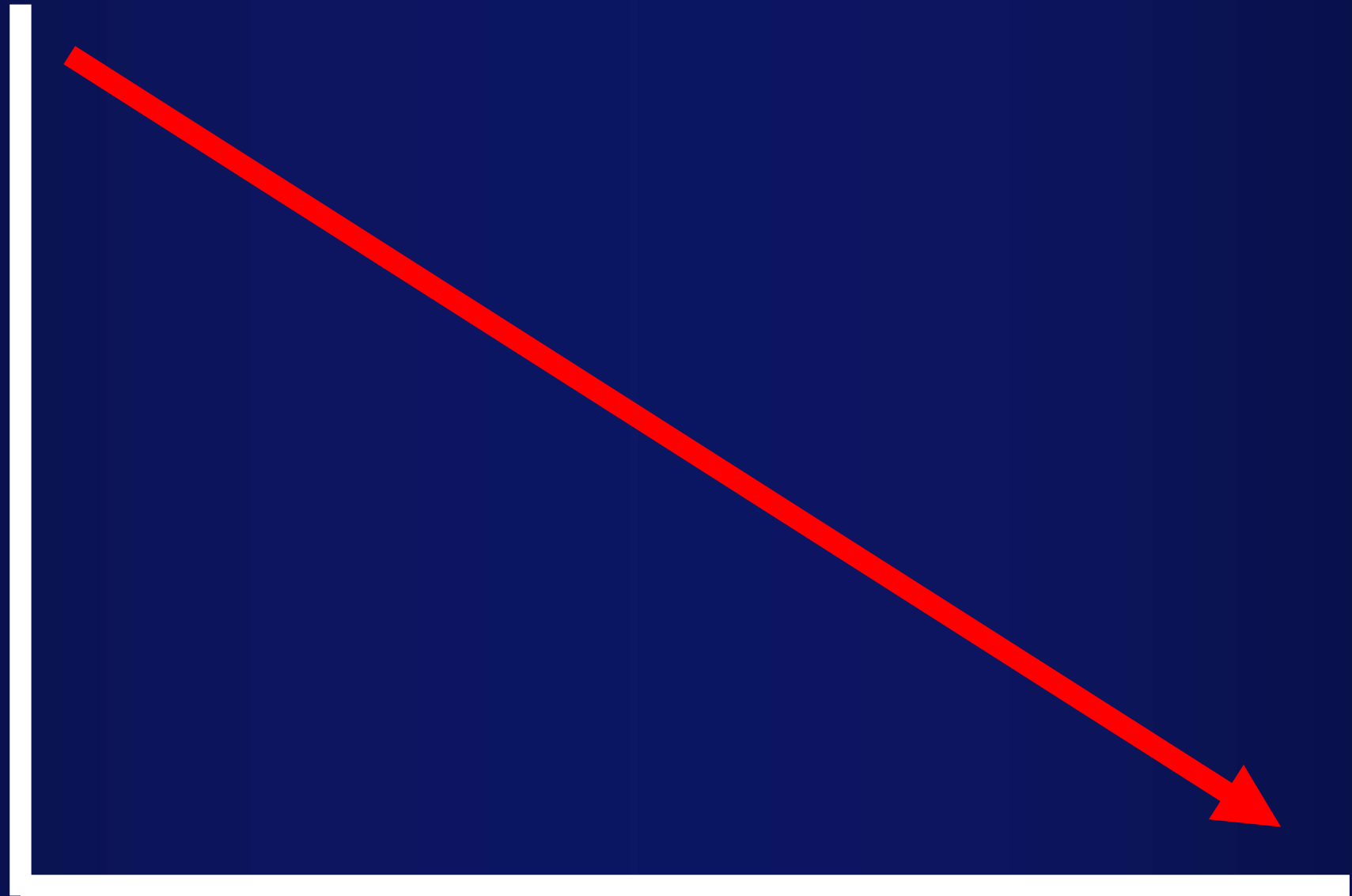
Thankfulness

Joy



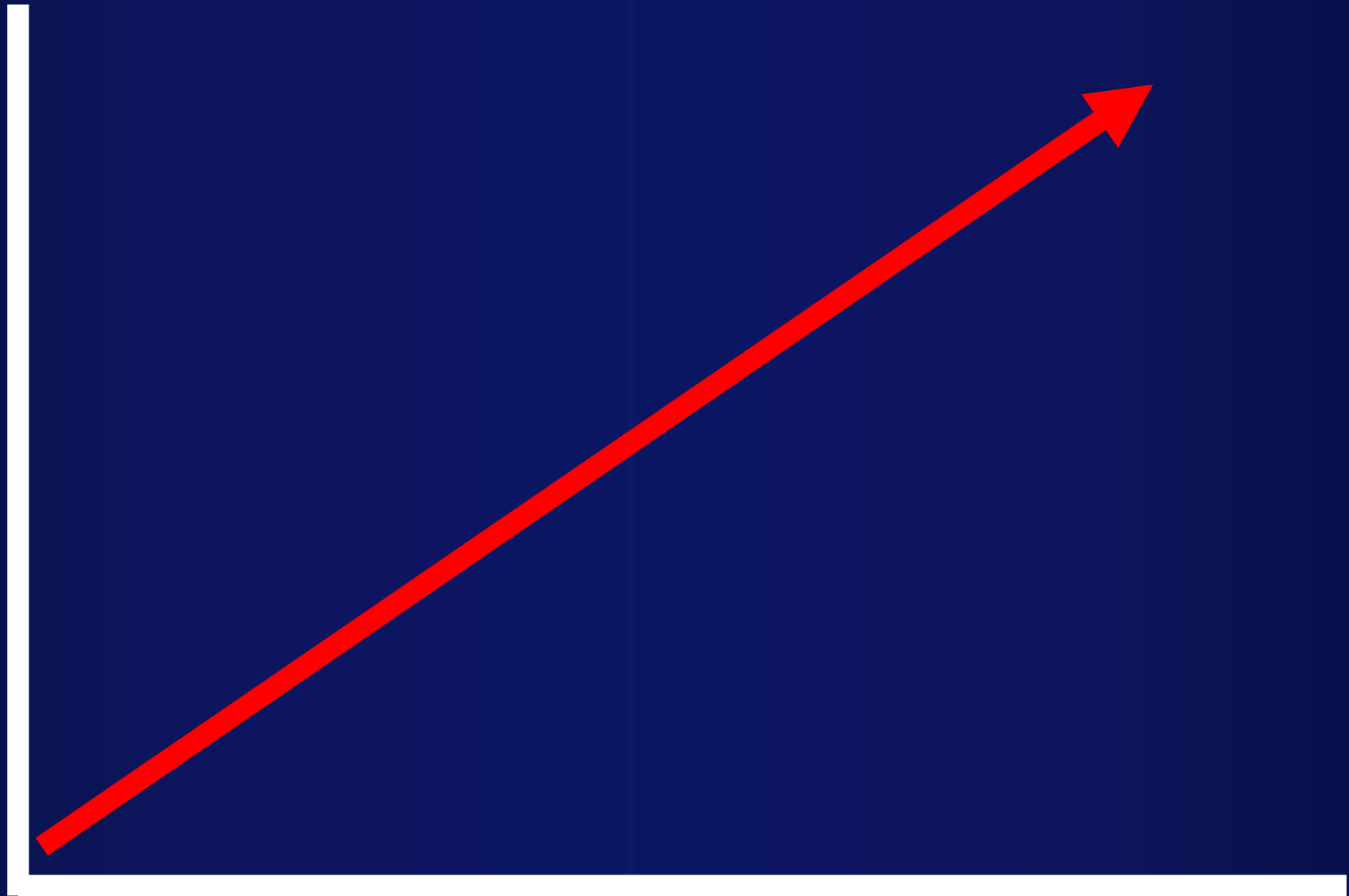
Thankfulness

Selfishness



Thankfulness

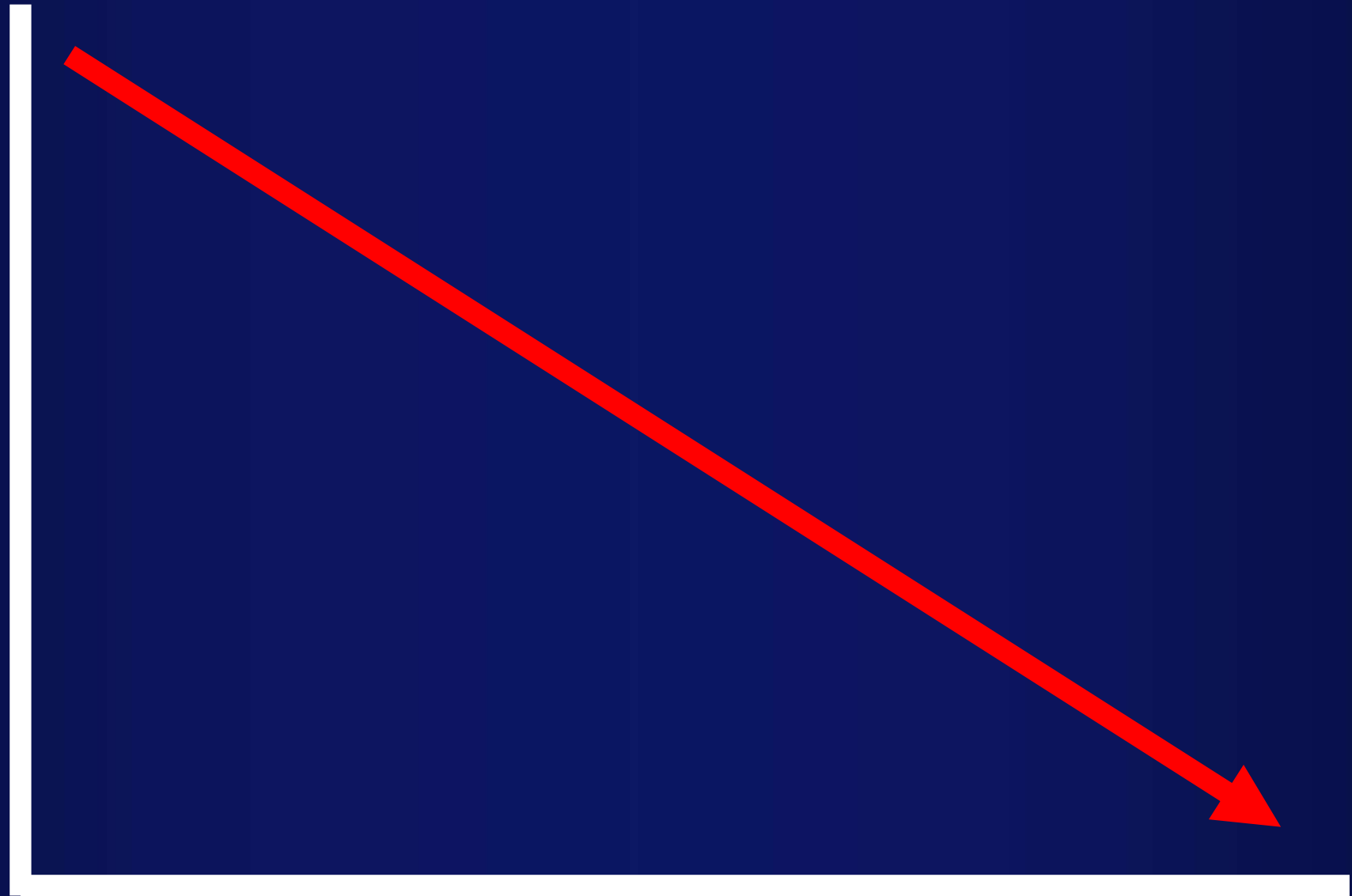
Holiness



Thankfulness

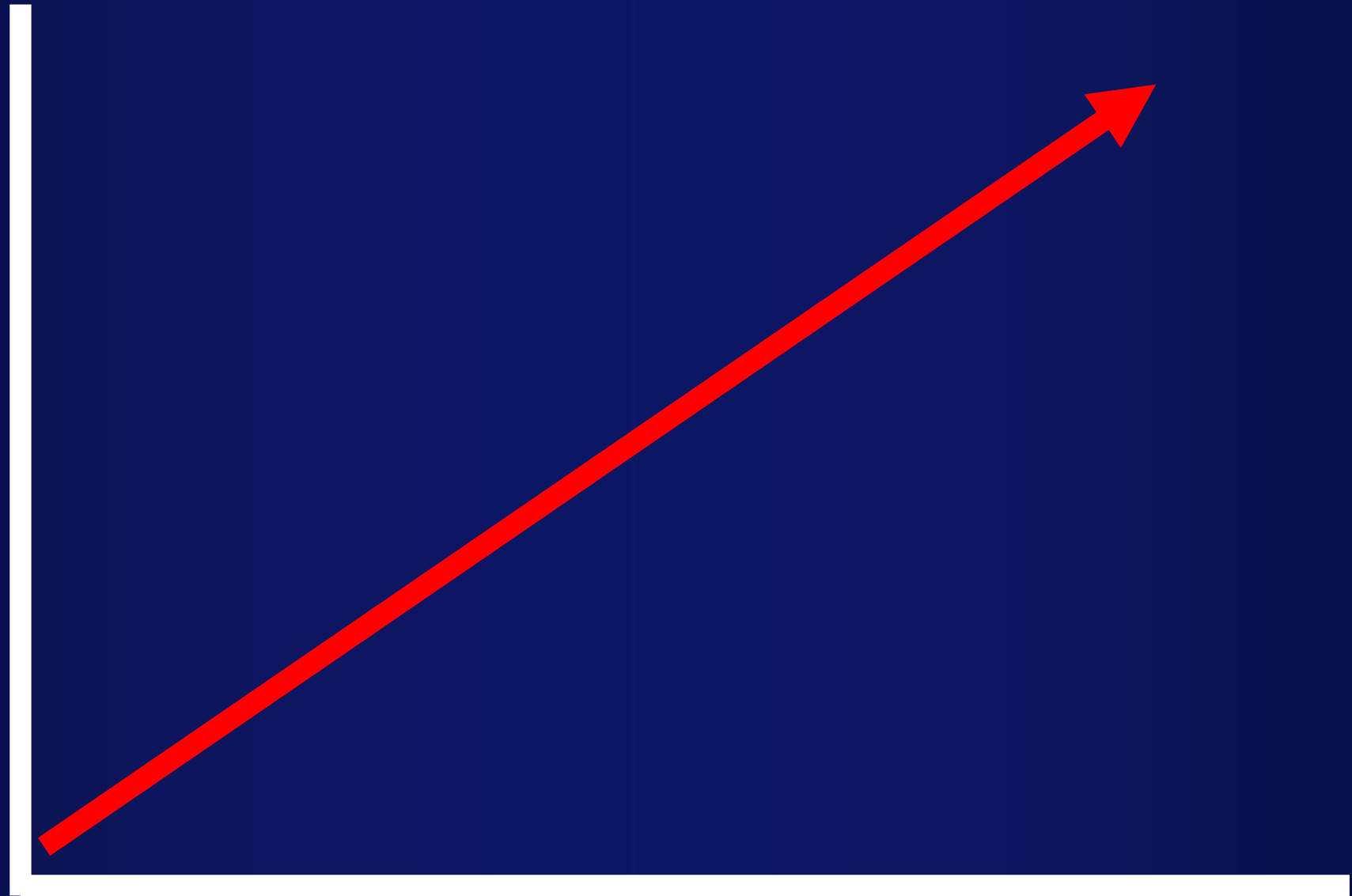


Sinfulness



Thankfulness

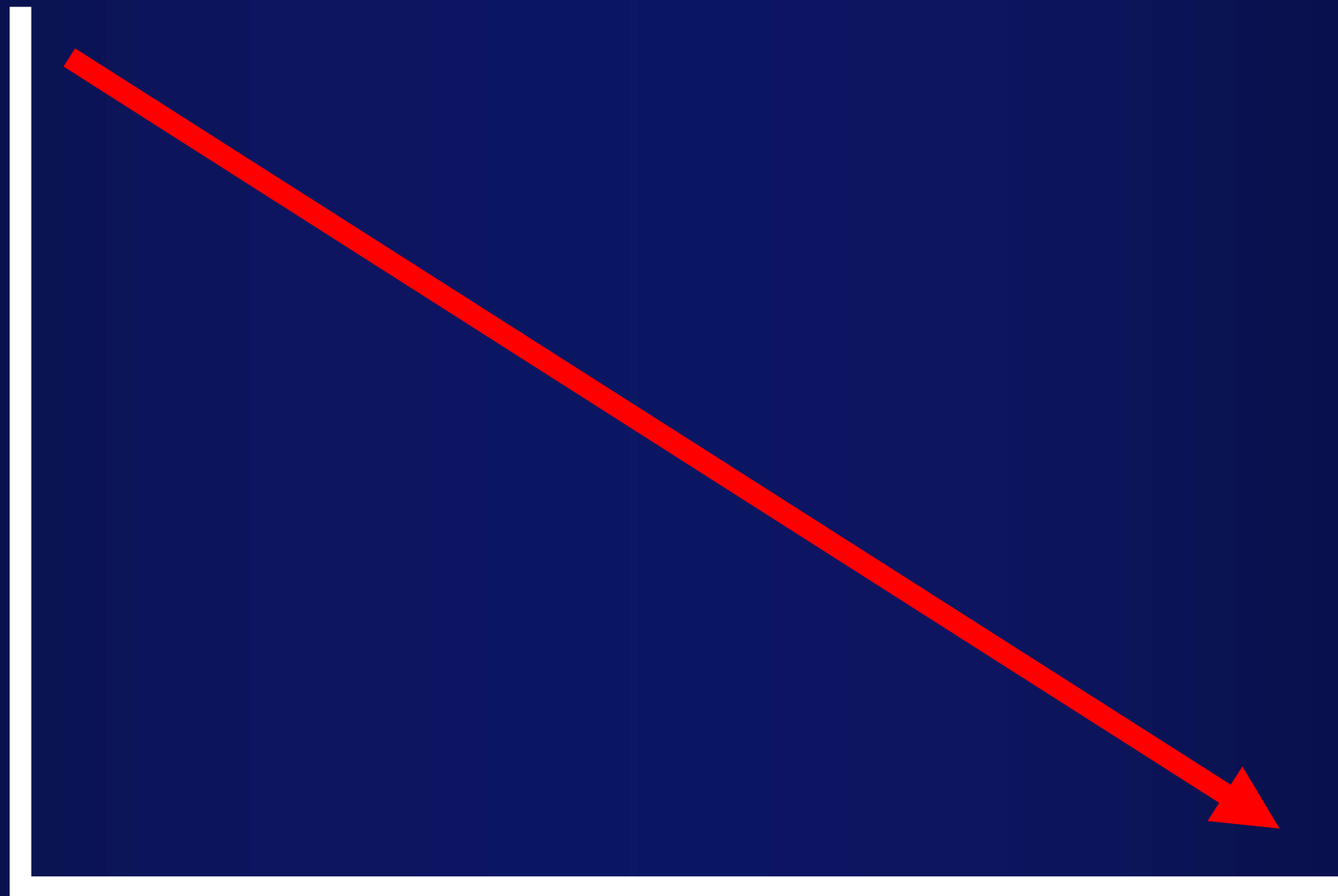
**Spiritual
Growth**



Thankfulness



**Spiritual
Apathy**



Thankfulness

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give **thanks** [εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteo* verb]; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



For what should we be most **thankful**?



“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:21



**You are invited to
participate in Baptism
Day next Sunday. Email
rjones@firstmelissa.com.**

Let's start our days...

Modeh ani kol boker

מודה אני כל בוקר

“I will give thanks every morning”

