Discussion Guide: November 15th, 2026
Message Series: *Just Grateful*
Message: Respond in Gratitude
Bryan Bicket

Take Home Truth: A grateful heart responds by giving what it has received.

Focus Passages:

Romans 8:28 (ESV)
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (ESV)
3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Romans 8:32 (ESV)
He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things.

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)
Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 18:35 (ESV)
So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

John 13:13-17 (ESV)
13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Romans 12:19–21 (ESV)
19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

John 13:34-35 (ESV)
34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:12-13 (ESV)
12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Message Highlights:

- **THE FOUNDATION** of our gratitude is the gracious gift of God sacrificing his Son for us.
- **THE RIGHT RESPONSE** to that gift from God is total trust and complete surrender to God.
- Since a grateful heart responds by giving what it has received we must also **FORGIVE**, **SERVE**, and **LOVE** as Christ forgave, served, and loved us.

Discussions Questions:

1. Talk about a time when you were grateful that someone did something for you even though it was difficult. What did they do or have to go through and why was that important to you?
2. In what ways have you experienced the truth of Romans 8:28 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4? In what ways have you or do you wrestle with those two verses?
3. Romans 8:32 is the foundation of our gratitude and the right response to that gift is total trust and complete surrender to God. How does keeping Romans 8:32 in mind help you to trust and surrender yourself to God?
4. Who is God asking you to comfort as a response to the comfort you have received from the Lord?
5. In light of Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 18:35, who is God asking you to **FORGIVE** “as God in Christ forgave you?”
6. As you think of Jesus words in John 13:13-17 and Romans 12:19-21, who is God asking you to **SERVE**?
7. Looking at what Jesus says about loving others in John 13:34-35 and John 15:12-13, how is God calling you to show Christ-like **LOVE** to others this week?” Specifically, how can you love others in a way that requires you to be selfless, requires you to be generous, and requires you to be sacrificial?

Time of Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your deep love for us that would lead you to give up your beloved son for us so that we could know and love you. Help us to respond to the Forgiveness, Service, and Love you have shown us by giving to others what we have already received from you. Bring to our mind ways that we can put these things into practice this week. - Amen.