

Reasons to Give Thanks

November 21, 2021

PREPARATION

Study

Look over the guideline for the group discussion and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you.

Pray

Pray for the members of your group and their openness to God's word.

Landing Point

God desires for us to cultivate a heart of gratitude. We can be thankful for the daily strength He gives us, His grace that saves us, and the gift to know Him.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group.

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

INTRODUCTION

Gratitude is good for you, both physically and spiritually. We see a theme of gratitude come to the surface in Paul's letters to Timothy. As Paul wrote to Timothy, we observe how he remembered the good that God was doing in his life and how he practiced giving thanks. As your group time begins introduce this concept of giving thanks to your group.

DEEPER DIVE

Thank God for the Blessing of Strength

We live in a culture that celebrates the self-made and self-sustaining man. This contrasts what we see Paul thanking God for in scripture and in turn models for us what we should celebrate.

Q - Have a volunteer read 1 Timothy 1:12 and 2 Corinthians 4:7

Q - How does what Paul give thanks for in these verses contrast with the messages and narratives we hear in culture? What do these verses teach us about God?



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God has placed you where you are today by His grace and sovereignty. Wherever you find yourself, and whatever you are facing, God believes you can handle it and desires to supply you the daily strength to make it.

Q - Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 6:10

Q - As you reflect on your life, what seasons can you look back and thank God for sustaining you and strengthening you in? In what areas of your life today do you need claim the sustaining strength of God?

Thank God for The Blessing of Mercy and Grace

Paul may have been strong in Jesus, but he was a total train wreck without Him. Before Jesus, Paul denied His deity and cursed Him, persecuted Christians, and was a violent aggressor. But by the grace of God, Paul's past did not define his future. Mercy is not getting what you deserve, grace is getting what you don't deserve. Paul experienced both, and in Jesus, we can too.

Q - Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:4-5. What does this verse say motivates the mercy and grace of Jesus?

Q - How have you experienced God's grace and mercy in your life? What are ways that we can respond and give thanks to the mercy and grace God has given us? What is one way you personally want to be intentional to give thanks to God?

Leader Tip: If your group has not ever taken time to share life change stories today would be a great day to start! Before your small group meets identify and ask 1-2 people to share their life change story during small group.

Thank God for The Blessing of Who He Is

We often thank God for the physical and spiritual gifts he has extended to us, but ultimately we can thank God for who He is. As we learn and meditate on the character of God we can respond in praise.

Q - Ask a volunteer to read 1 Timothy 1:17 and encourage your group to underline words that we can attribute to God's character (King eternal, immortal, invisible, only God)

Q - Taking our eyes off of ourselves and circumstances and lifting them to God can fill us with peace, hope and gratitude. What other scripture and words can we ascribe to the character of God?

As your group time comes to a close spend time praising through prayer. Lead your group to pray by thanking God for who He is and how He's blessed you. Before opening in prayer read Psalm 100:4 over your group.

