



Small Group Guide – Week of March 8

Upside Down: The Gospel According to Luke

Date: Week of March 8, 2026

Focus Passage(s): Luke 17:11-19

Theme: Gratitude is a part of faith. Our perspective affects our gratitude.

Suggested Schedule (60 minutes total)

Segment	Time	Description
Icebreaker	10 min	Get comfortable, begin connecting
Intro/Recap	5 min	Read the key passages for the week
Group Discussion	25 min	Dive into Scripture and discuss application
Deeper Dive Option	5–10 min	Deeper Bible study or individual challenge
Prayer & Requests	10–15 min	Close in prayer for growth + personal needs

Leader Notes

Reassure the group that struggling with gratitude is normal.

Encourage honest discussion about difficult seasons.

Guide the group toward seeing how perspective shapes gratitude.

Help participants identify practical ways to express gratitude this week.

Welcome + Icebreaker (10 min)

Prompt: In this series we are exploring how Jesus turns our assumptions upside down.

Have you ever had a situation where something frustrating happened, but later you realized it could have been much worse? What helped you see that perspective?

Who is someone in your life who is naturally grateful or positive? What do you notice about how they see situations differently?

Key Message Recap (5 min)

We are looking at a short story from Luke 17 where Jesus heals ten men with leprosy. Only one comes back to thank Him. The story challenges us to think about gratitude, faith, and perspective.

Read aloud: Luke 17:11-16 What stands out to you about the one man who returned to Jesus?

Dig Deeper – Discussion Questions (25 min)

Faith Before the Miracle

Why do you think Jesus asked them to go to the priest before they were healed?

Have you ever had to trust God before seeing the outcome? What was that experience like?

How does faith sometimes come before we see the results?

Perspective and Gratitude:

Read Luke 17:15-16 again.

Why do you think the Samaritan was the one who returned to thank Jesus?

How does realizing we do not deserve something often increase our gratitude?

When you struggle with gratitude, what helps you regain perspective?

Putting it into perspective:

What has God already done for me?

How is God working right now?

How does this situation matter in light of eternity?

Key Truth: Perspective helps gratitude.

The Nine Who Did Not Return:

Read Luke 17:17-18.

Why do you think the other nine did not come back to thank Jesus?

Do you think they felt grateful, but simply did not express it?

Why is expressing gratitude important in relationships with both God and people?

Key Truth: Gratitude compels expression.

Real Life Reflection (5 min)

Reflect on the cross as the greatest reason for gratitude. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when this story happened. He was on His way to the cross so that we could be made whole. Gratitude ultimately flows from what Jesus has done for us.

Gratitude grows when you stop long enough to see how faithful God has already been. When you remember what God has done, it changes how you see what you are going through right now.

Many of us are probably more like the nine than the one. We may feel thankful, but we often forget to express it. Jesus' question still challenges us today: "Where are the other nine?"

Where do you see opportunities in your life right now to express gratitude more intentionally?

Next Steps Challenge (5 min)

What is one way you will intentionally express gratitude this week?

Express gratitude to someone: Write a note or send a message thanking someone specifically for something they have done.

Express gratitude to God: Spend time in prayer thanking God for specific ways He has provided, protected, or guided you.

Deeper Dive (Optional)

Samuel 1–2

Hannah prayed desperately for a child. After God answered her prayer with Samuel, she responded with one of the most beautiful prayers of gratitude in Scripture (1 Samuel 2:1–10). She dedicated Samuel back to God, and recognized God's sovereignty and goodness. True gratitude recognizes God as the source of the blessing.

Luke 7:36–50

A woman who had experienced forgiveness showed gratitude by washing Jesus' feet with her tears and expensive perfume. She expressed humility, sacrifice (costly perfume), and worship.

Jesus said, "Her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown." (Luke 7:47)
Gratitude often flows from experiencing God's forgiveness.

Acts 16:25

Even in prison, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God. Gratitude wasn't based on circumstances. It was based on trust in God. Gratitude is most powerful in difficult seasons.

Prayer Time (10 min)

Thank God for the ways He has worked in your life. Ask God to give you a heart that notices His provision and responds with gratitude. Pray that gratitude would shape your faith and perspective.

Invite group members to share personal prayer needs that are spiritual, relational, or practical. Encourage confidentiality and care.