

CELEBRATE  
GRATITUDE  
BLESSINGS  
THANKS

## THANKS

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We live in a culture of complainers. However, the church has been given so much. Even the poorest among us has been offered free salvation through Jesus. Because of this, we're called to give *thanks*.

### Where Am I Today?

- 1) What is the biggest barrier in your life that is keeping you from being more thankful?

### Into the Bible

- 2) Thankfulness is most obvious when contrasted by pain. Paul wrote Philippians while in prison. **Read** Philippians 1:1-11, 2:14-16 and 4:4-6 to see at least one thing for which Paul was thankful. Then, how and why does he encourage the Philippians to be thankful?
- 3) God appeals to us to give thanks throughout the Bible. Giving thanks may not always mean what we think it means. **Read** the following passages on gratitude and thankfulness. On what basis are we called to give thanks?

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- a. Psalm 7:17
  - b. Psalm 28:7
  - c. Colossians 3:1-2, 12-17
  - d. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
  - e. Hebrews 12:28-29
- 4) God's plea for thankfulness doesn't mean we shallowly put on a happy face all the time. Some of the greatest times of thanks are when you admit that life is hard. **Read** the following passages where people cry out to God for rescue. How can these passages encourage you?
- a. Job 2:3-10
  - b. Psalm 23

### How Does This Apply?

- 5) What are some obvious things in your life that you can be thankful for? Share at least two with the group.

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6) How can you give thanks despite the barrier(s) you gave in your answer to question #1?

7) How is “giving thanks” like giving a gift to God?

**Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own**

8) God gives us many good gifts; Jesus made that clear. We tend to think that thankfulness or gratitude is being thankful for what God gives us. That’s one of the first and most obvious things we can be thankful for, but it’s not the best. What is the greatest gift God gives us? How does the greatness of that gift trump the pain of losing anything else? What is at the root of being thankful to God—no matter the circumstance?

Matthew 7:9-12

Psalms 84:1-2, 10-12

John 3:16

Romans 8:32

Galatians 2:20

Revelation 4:8

Romans 8:38-39

Revelation 21:4