



MESSAGE GROUPS - GRATITUDE - NOVEMBER 25

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

Take time in your group to really focus in on what it means to be grateful despite the circumstances in their life. Encourage them to make a grateful heart more than something we do once a year around a dinner table, but a part of their daily life that is rooted in God's unchanging grace.

ICEBREAKER:

What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory or tradition?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read aloud **1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18**

- **Q:** *What about this passage stands out or is most challenging to you?*

Gratitude is what allows us to break through **discontentment**.

- **Q:** *The teaching talks about the difference in expressed gratitude and unexpressed gratitude. Why do you think it matters that we voice the things that we are grateful for?*
- **Q:** *We are at risk of being ungrateful when we ask the question: "Why doesn't God do something about THAT?" The reality is, we all ask that question. What is the "THAT" you struggle with?*

Even Paul wrestled with this question - and through his wrestling he found three things to be true about God: **1) He can. 2) Sometimes he waits. 3) We can trust him in the meantime.**

- **Q:** *Have you noticed the gap between what you want and what God decides? How do you process the times when God doesn't answer us the way we think He will?*

While we can't always be grateful for the difficult circumstances in our life, we can still be grateful for the truth of who God is and what he has done for us, despite our circumstances.

CLOSE:

Challenge your group to respond either out loud or in a private moment of reflection.

- **Q:** *God's grace is not dictated by what happens in our life, but His grace is always sufficient and gives us what we need in His timing. Where have you seen evidence of God's grace in your life?*

RESPONSE: As a group, pray either collectively or take turns praying prayers of gratitude. What has God done in your life and where have you seen evidence of His goodness? Where can you express gratitude toward Him?

