



Gratitude

A Biblical Guide to Navigating the Holidays

November 12, 2023

SERIES OVERVIEW:

During this three week series on gratitude, we will unpack God's Word to see how gratitude is understood from a Biblical sense. Gratitude is the choice to respond to God's goodness shown or God's goodness expected.

SERMON RECAP:

In week two, we looked at defining gratitude from a Biblical perspective, and how the story of David - the death of his son because of his sin and the gratitude cultivate - shows us how God is God and God is good no matter what. We choose to respond to God's goodness shown and God's goodness expected, and can cultivate gratitude in the midst of grief.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- "God is God, and God is good, no matter what." How does this reminder of truth help deepen our understanding of gratitude? How has your study of God's Word formed your posture of gratitude? Share scripture. *Use this time to encourage and share with one another.*
- **Re-read 2 Samuel 12:13-23.** Pastor Micah shared that all grief is a result of sin - whether our personal sin or because of the world's fallen state. *Discuss this together - as needed, write down questions you have or share verses to encourage a deeper understanding of the truth of God with one another.*
- Everyone's table setting will be different this holiday season. Take time as a group, as you feel able, to share your fears/grief you are holding. ***As a group, open up and read Matthew 11:28-30, Psalm 34:18, and Psalm 147:3. Pray these scriptures over one another and pray on behalf of those sharing.***

- Pastor Micah unpacked King David's response to cultivate gratitude in the midst of grief in 2 Samuel.
 - Physically: Get up, clean up, dress up.
 - Spiritual: Worship
 - Emotionally: Eat a meal, move forward.
- **As a community, think of those God has entrusted you. Either those who have shared or those who may not be part of your group yet that God is drawing to His Name. Start to think about how you can be cultivators of gratitude with them. Ideate in response to these questions and then put it into practice by putting it on the calendar, sending the text, making the phone call, and sending the invite.**
 - Who can I invite to share a meal? (Think beyond Thanksgiving & Christmas - Ohio winters are long, dark & cold...)
 - Who can I invite to worship with me? (*Dec 24 - 10:30 AM, 3PM, 5 PM*)
 - Who can I invite to do/be with? Ideas:
 - Board game night
 - Take a hike
 - Movie Night
 - Craft Night
 - Cookie Decorating (*Cookies & Caroling - Dec 17 @ 3pm*)