

STUDENTS NEWSLETTER



Theology of the month: **Gratitude**

It's that time of year again when we gather around the dinner table with family and share the many things we're thankful for. Many of us will mention the roof over our heads, the food on our plates, and the people (and even pets) we love most. These are all good gifts, and we rightly give thanks to God for them. But a theologically grounded heart of gratitude goes even deeper—it recognizes that God is not merely the recipient of our thanks, but the greatest reason for it. He himself is our ultimate blessing, the very source of every good thing and the reason we have to be thankful at all.

Seeing Jesus as the true blessing totally reshapes our theology of what truly is good, and thus what really should elicit our giving thanks.

We also have sound theology when our hearts are set on things above (Colossians 3:1). Too often, we focus our gratitude on what is temporary, when we should be even more thankful for what is eternal. Hebrews 12:28 reminds us to “be grateful for a kingdom that cannot be shaken.”

We see this clearly in the apostle Paul's letters. He consistently gives thanks, and while he occasionally acknowledges physical provision, his deepest gratitude is directed toward eternal realities—the grace of God and the faith of the church and the their love for one another.

As students are gearing towards the end of their study in 1st Peter, they have learn about suffering, persecution, and that life is hard being Christian, but in those struggles we are called to “rejoice always”, and we find a soul that is rejoicing even in hardships when they are thankful for God and what he has done for us!

OUR MISSION

The mission for our students is the same as it is for our church. We want our students to become disciples of Jesus who **behold** His gospel, who **belong** in gospel community, and who are **sent** on gospel mission.

Memory Verse **of the Month**

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good, for his steadfast
love endures forever!” - Psalm
107:1*

Application of the month:

APPLICATIONS FOR TEENS TO PRACTICE GRATITUDE.

1. Use the ACTS Prayer model.

Teens might have the idea that prayer is just asking God for the things we want. But if we use the ACTS model (Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession, Supplication), we show that thanksgiving is important, and it helps us have the right mind for it.

2. Remember that every good thing comes from God.

James 1:17 — “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...”

Encourage them to trace every blessing—big or small—back to God as the giver. This helps shift gratitude from “I’m thankful for things” to “I’m thankful to God.”

3. Use Gratitude to build others up.

1 Thessalonians 1:2–3 — Paul thanks God for people and tells them so.

Teens can follow Paul’s example by telling friends, parents, or leaders, “I thank God for you.” That not only honors God but strengthens relationships.

4. Parents lead by example!

Parents should practice these same things! Parents are the main disciple makers of their children, if they see your faith and love for God and others, they will be encouraged and strengthened by it. Students will find gratitude if their parents are grateful.



Recommend Resources

Article -

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/gratitude-dangers-good-life/>

Article/Podcast -

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/christian-thankfulness-what-it-is-and-isnt>

Worship (Song) - *Who you are to me* - Chris Tomlin ft. Lady A.

Article - <https://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/a-theology-of-thanksgiving/>

SERMON SERIES

THIS FALL AT RH STUDENTS, WE WILL BE DIVING BACK INTO OUR SERIES IN 1ST PETER. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAN BE TOUGH—FRIEND DRAMA, ACADEMIC PRESSURE, IDENTITY STRUGGLES. 1ST PETER WAS WRITTEN TO CHRISTIANS FACING PERSECUTION AND HARDSHIP, AND IT ENCOURAGES THEM TO STAY STRONG AND HOPEFUL. THAT MESSAGE STILL HITS TODAY.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE SPRING, THE GOAL IS TO CONTINUE ON THIS JOURNEY WITH THE APOSTLE PETER AND GO THROUGH HIS SECOND EPISTLE FOR OUR NEXT SERMON SERIES. THEN TRANSITION BACK TO A OT BOOK DURING SUMMER CAMP OR THE FALL OF 2026.

IMPORTANT DATES

RH STUDENTS - Nov. 9th
5:00-7:00PM

RH STUDENTS - Nov. 16th
5:00-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Nov. 30th
5:00-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Dec. 14th
CHRISTMAS PARTY!

RH STUDENTS - Jan. 11th
5:00-7:30PM

RH STUDENTS - Jan. 25th
5:00-7:30PM