

### (1) An Opening THOUGHT

“We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*

### (2) Read the TEXT Together

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful” (Colossians 4:2).

### (3) Key POINTS

- Gratitude Centres in God
- Gratitude Comes with Growth

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?  
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# GROUPS RESOURCE

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER



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## (4) Looking to the WORD

- Read the passages (in section 2) about thankfulness again. Talk about what's really being said. What would a life look like if these verses were really lived out?
- Read 1 Timothy 1:12-14. Cory said on Sunday that thankfulness is a natural, proper response to who God is and how He works. How did the apostle Paul demonstrate this? What are you specifically challenged by in this passage?

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## (5) Looking at our WORLD

- Think and talk about ways that Jesus followers living thankful lives could make a deep impact on the world today.
- Do you think thankfulness is a value shared by those who are not yet followers of Jesus? Why?
- As you think about the place of influence and impact God has put you (your family, neighbourhood, school, workplace, city, country), what are you thankful for? How do you believe He wants to use you?

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## (6) Looking at our LIVES

On Sunday, Cory referenced Walter Brueggemann and his observation about the two key movements in the Psalms – moving into the pit and moving out of the pit. He talked about how we see this played out in the Psalms and in our lives as we experience orientation (everything makes sense), disorientation (sunk into a pit – see Psalm 35), and new orientation (where God has lifted us and we experience a new place of gratitude and awareness about our lives and God).

- How do you relate with this? Where do you think you're at right now?
- How have you seen God's faithfulness in and out of the pit?

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## (7) Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together (On-Ramps)

- Take note this week of your reasons to be thankful.
- Spend some time thanking and praising God for who He is and how He has worked in your life.
- Spend time reading through the Psalms. Pay attention to the psalmists' honesty in expressing themselves to God.
- If you're facing circumstances in which you're struggling to find a sense of gratitude, honestly talk to God about your situation. Ask Him to help you see His presence and purposes in your life in a fresh light.

In what ways might you take action on these? Include this in your prayer time.