



Hello Small Groups!

Is it already time to be looking ahead to the next holiday? You may be wondering how you'll survive it all this year, much less enjoy it but this is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year! Christmas offers refreshment, rest and renewal, bringing us closer to friends and family and the power to deepen our relationship with the Lord. Let's get started on our journey to a miraculous holiday...

Discussion Questions - Week 1

1. On a scale of 1-5, how often do you live with a grateful attitude? 1 means you have little gratitude and 5 means you are filled with it. Give 1-2 examples each.
2. In the past 24 hours, what three gifts (people, places or things) are grateful for receiving?
3. What prevents you from expressing gratitude? Name ways you have seen others express it.
4. Read aloud **Luke 17:15-16**.

The one leper saw what God had done, turned back to Jesus and praised God in a loud voice.

5. Which of these three is the easiest for you to do? Which is the most difficult?
6. What would be a sign for you that you had grown in gratitude as a result of this series? What are practical steps you can take?

Practice

Write down one thing you are not grateful for today and a few thoughts on your attitude as this series starts. Be honest and authentic with yourself.



Hello Small Groups!

Is it already time to be looking ahead to the next holiday? You may be wondering how you'll survive it all this year, much less enjoy it but this is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year! Christmas offers refreshment, rest and renewal, bringing us closer to friends and family and the power to deepen our relationship with the Lord. Let's get started on our journey to a miraculous holiday...

Discussion Questions - Week 2

1. How full will your schedule get this Christmas? What are your commitments? Will you be busy in December?
2. Does it ever feel like you're constantly reacting to whatever life throws your way? What are those things? Do you tend to be quick or slow to react?
3. Why do you think Jesus waited instead of going to visit Lazarus right way?
4. Do you believe the practice of stillness can help you experience more gratitude?

Scripture

So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it"

John 11.3-4

*Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. **John 11.5-6***

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^d had already been in the tomb four days.

John 11.17

*He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. **John 11.34-35***



Hello Small Groups!

Is it already time to be looking ahead to the next holiday? You may be wondering how you'll survive it all this year, much less enjoy it but this is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year! Christmas offers refreshment, rest and renewal, bringing us closer to friends and family and the power to deepen our relationship with the Lord. Let's get started on our journey to a miraculous holiday...

Discussion Questions - Week 3

1. Name some of your biggest disappointments in your life.
2. Talk about some of your unmet expectations regarding the holidays, other circumstances or relationships. Where did your expectations originate? Were they realistic? How can you begin to set new expectations for your future?
3. The entire book of Ecclesiastes tells us that life is meaningless without God. Do you agree or disagree? What are some things that you assign great meaning to but leave God out of those areas of your life?
4. Solomon's solution to a meaningful life is to "remember your creator" with praise and gratitude. What are some ways you can practice that this Advent? How can you include God and gratitude to Him for everything in life? (whoa big question)
5. We have so much to be grateful for in our lives. It's easy to be grateful for all the seemingly good things. Talk about the challenge of having a grateful perspective in life through difficulty, as opposed to just being grateful for the good things and blessings.

Practice

At the end of each day this week write down your gratitude and praise to God for the day's blessings.



Hello Small Groups!

Is it already time to be looking ahead to the next holiday? You may be wondering how you'll survive it all this year, much less enjoy it but this is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year! Christmas offers refreshment, rest and renewal, bringing us closer to friends and family and the power to deepen our relationship with the Lord. Let's get started on our journey to a miraculous holiday...

Discussion Questions - Week 4

1. Do you know someone who practices radical gratitude through giving?
2. What kind of giver are you? Reluctant? Dutiful? Generous? Discuss each type
3. Read Luke 6:38. What does it mean to “give and it will be given to you”?

“give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
Luke 6:38

4. Share a story when you gave of your time, talent or treasure and you received something in return.
5. Should expecting something in return be our motive or our incentive?
6. How are you challenged to practice gratitude through giving?

Scripture

“John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”” **Luke 3:10**