

START

Take a moment, go around the circle and introduce yourself. Each person needs to answer this question:

If you could be a character on a TV show, explain what show and which character you would be and why?

SHARE

As a recap of last week, let's read the foundational text of the current series in 2 Chronicles.

The Lord Appears to Solomon // 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace, the Lord appeared to him at night and said:

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

During this series, what is one thing that you have realized or have been thinking about that you hadn't thought about before?

Last week we were challenged to "pray continually" and invite God into every part of our day. If you took up that challenge, talk about your experience, what did you learn about God or yourself?

Pray Continually // 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

What types of situations are really easy to be thankful for?

What types of situations do you personally find it difficult to be thankful?

Do you know a person who, despite difficult trials, still "gives thanks in all circumstances?" How have you personally been effected by their faith or attitude?

GROW

Throughout the message, we learned that there is power in thanksgiving and that being thankful is intended to change our own hearts. Thankfulness is a powerful state of the heart that God has intended for each of us to walk in. In this next passage, Paul gives an impassioned plea to very religious and educated people in Athens who, despite their best efforts, do not know the one true God.

Read all of **Acts 17:22-34** together and we will camp on the key verses below:

Acts 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

In the Greek, "is not served" is the word "therapeuo" which simply means to "serve; heal." This is important to understand that God does not need human efforts to serve or heal him. In fact, he does not need anything because he is completely self-sufficient. He is the giver of life and breath to everything. When we are thankful to God, it is not to help him, but intended to help us to live how we were designed to live.

After reading this, what is one thing that stands out to you?

In the message, Chad mentioned areas of life we all experience at times. Which one of these areas can you relate to? (Depression, anxiety, victimization, cynical attitude, anger or discontentment)

Do you think that by focusing on things you can be thankful for could help with one of the areas above? Why?

MOVE

Now that we have taken some time to reflect on how God desires us to live with hearts full of thankfulness, let's talk about some things we can do to move closer to the type of person we all desire to become. Pick one or two steps below that you think you could take to help you in your journey toward thankfulness:

- ***Get a journal and list out all of the things that you can be thankful for?***
- ***Send an email or make a phone-call this week to forgive someone that hurt you?***
- ***Find a friend to talk about a situation that is difficult?***
- ***Find a place to serve someone less fortunate or going through a tough time this week?***
- ***Pray a bold prayer for God to help soften your heart?***

PRAY

Let's put into practice what we have been learning by praying for each other. This time, each person should try to think of one thing to thank God for in their prayer.