



# **LIFEgroup Study Guide**

November 15 & November 22



# LIFEgroup Study Guide

This study guide follows along with LBF Church's current Sunday message series, and is intended to be a supplement in your daily passionate pursuit of Jesus.

- *Watch last Sunday's message video:*  
*[[www.lbf.church/messages](http://www.lbf.church/messages)]*

Is your group stumped? Did you come to a question that you feel needs clarification? Our church isn't too big. Contact Pastor Dan with your questions.

- *Contact Pastor Dan:*  
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## **Lesson 1: Why Be Thankful?**

Psalm 100 • Pg. 5-6 • November 15

## **Lesson 2: In All Circumstances?**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 • Pg. 7-8 • November 22



# Why Be Thankful?

Lesson 1 • November 15 • by Dan Franklin

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## Main Point

Our gratitude is based on God's character.

*give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all  
generations.*

## Getting Started

1. Name some things that rob you of gratitude.

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

2. Have you ever told someone else that they should be thankful? If so, what were your reasons for thinking that they should be thankful?

4. Verses 1-2 highlight what emotions are appropriate for those who are listening to the psalm. What stands out to you about the emotions mentioned?

## Digging In

Read Psalm 100.

*1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

*2 Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.*

*3 Know that the LORD is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;*

5. Verse 3 highlights God as both the creator and as the shepherd. Give an example of how each of those truths about God leads to gratitude.

6. Verse 4 mentions giving thanks two different times. If someone is practicing genuine gratitude, what does this reveal about that person?

11. The passage connects our gratitude to God's character. How can you be more purposeful in dwelling in God's goodness, so that gratitude springs more naturally from your heart?

7. Verse 5 gives the basis for the gratitude that is commanded in verse 4. What reasons are given for why we should give thanks to God?

## **Wrestling With Big Ideas**

8. Is it inauthentic to give thanks when you feel sad and frustrated and upset? Why or why not?

## **Connecting With The Gospel**

9. This psalm commands gratitude in light of God's power, his care, his goodness, his love, and his faithfulness. These all come to their climax in the gospel, where we see God's love and goodness poured out as he reconciled us to himself through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In what ways is the gospel the ultimate basis for gratitude?

## **Taking It To Heart**

10. When you are not practicing gratitude, what kinds of attitudes take its place?

## In All Circumstances?

Lesson 2 • November 22 • by Dan Franklin

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### Main Point

God's goodness empowers us to be thankful in all circumstances.

3. What stood out to you in this passage? If you listened to the sermon, feel free to share something significant that you remember.

### Getting Started

1. What are some circumstances in which it would seem really strange to be thankful?

4. In this passage Paul uses the terms "always," "continually," and "in all circumstances." What do these terms tell you about the significance of rejoicing, prayer, and giving thanks?

2. During this past year, what are some things that have made it difficult for you to be thankful?

5. What do you think is the difference between giving thanks *in* all circumstances as opposed to giving thanks *for* all circumstances?

### Digging In

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

*16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. "*

6. In what ways is our attitude of thankfulness under our control and in what ways is it not?

7. Many of us spend a good deal of time trying to discern God's will for us. Paul says that rejoicing,

praying, and giving thanks are God's will for us. How should this impact how Christians think about discerning God's will?

11. How have you seen God's goodness in your life, even in the midst of pain and difficulty?

## **Wrestling With Big Ideas**

8. How can Christians give thanks in all circumstances, while also leaving room for grief and lament?

## **Connecting With The Gospel**

9. Gratitude always has to be based on something. If we've embraced the gospel through faith in Jesus, this means that we are forgiven, adopted, and promised eternal life. How does this provide the basis for gratitude in dark and painful circumstances?

## **Taking It To Heart**

10. In your life right now, what factor makes it most difficult for you to have a continual attitude of thankfulness?