



Gratitude - Discussion Guide

Connect

Main Idea: Our assumptions create our attitudes, and our attitude determines our perception.

Introduction: When life is well for us, the human default is happiness. When in the midst of a storm, however, that joy collapses. Through the discipline of thanksgiving, we can refine our assumptions to a Biblical standard of God's never-ending goodness to mankind.

Discussion Starter: Do your assumptions reflect your thanksgiving? Are your assumptions being tempered by the Word of God, or are they the default response of the world around you?

Grow

Primary Scripture: John 8:32, Psalms 100:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Discussion Questions:

1. Think for a moment on the following scripture. John 8:32 states, "and you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." This freedom rises against every form of bondage, both in thinking and in action. Knowing this, describe the effects our negative assumptions can bear? Are those results uplifting, or decaying?
2. Thankful people are often the most joyous, yet many Christians don't practice a lifestyle of gratitude to God, rather following the assumptions fed to them by the world. Why is this, and what are some impliable methods that can lead you to a lifestyle of God-given joy rather than a moment of circumstantial happiness?
3. The world will do its best to inject every Christian with negative assumptions, but 1 Thessalonians 5:18 states, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Hence, by following God's will for us, we can enjoy the oh-so-joyous fruit of thanksgiving which transforms our worldly assumptions into Godly assumptions! If we disobey this command from God's Word, however, we actually quench the Holy Spirit, which the very next verse directs us not to do! In light of that, it can be said that bad assumptions lead to disobedience. What are some ways we can assume the Word, rather than assume the world?

Protect

Suggestion: Consider breaking the group into twos or threes for this section.

Take a moment to pray. Thank God for the victory and blessings He's so graciously bestowed to you, His children. Consider during this Heart For the Harvest, that God wants to use you to further His Kingdom. Ask Him to empower you to live with an obedient and generous heart. Seek His presence to discern how you can best obey Him in your offering this year. He has His own plans for each of you. To train you, disciple you, and grant you victory as light exposes darkness. Ask Him to show what plans and individual steps He wants you to take in your walk of love and obedience. Pray similarly for others, that God may create a desire in them to live Holy lives, seeking first the Kingdom.