**Thanksgivin’ Week 1: Thankful**

Hey everyone I’m pumped y’all are here today because we got some good stuff to talk about today. Now that we are in the month of November, I don’t know how many of you are already smelling your Grandma’s famous Pecan Pie in the oven? Or maybe your Uncle’s homemade yeast rolls? Or maybe your Mom’s homemade cranberry sauce? (How many of you know what cranberry sauce is?!)

Before we go any further I want you guys to understand the difference between Thanksgiving and Thanksgivin’. Everybody try saying it with me ThanksGIVIN’! You might be thinking well the only difference is one letter “g”. BUT YOU ARE SO WRONG!! Thanksgiving is where the table is set all neat and tidy like you’ll see here (Clean/ neat table) and Thanksgivin’ is where the table looks like this (messy/ table with people chowing down) Thanksgiving looks like this after the meal (everyone sitting politely) where after Thanksgivin’ dinner it looks like this (belly’s full people passed out from a hearty meal)

With Thanksgivin’ right around the corner we are going to be talking about why the Word of God talks about being thankful so ding dang much. Did you know that the word “thanks” is in the Bible 100 times? God chose every word in the Bible so he was obviously try to tell us the importance of being thankful. Learning how to be thankful isn’t always an easy process. We have to learn how to get down and dirty, like the pictures we saw earlier, to clear away all of the sinful entitlement and negativity in our lives.

**Our THP for the day is: God wants us to be thankful.**

If you’re anything like me it is so easy to think we are entitled to so many daily blessings in our life. Whether it’s the house we live in, the car the gets us where we need to go, the food we expect to just have every meal, the health to play sports and do things we love, more importantly the family we have been given, and most importantly the God who gives us all these things.

I want us to take a look at man in the Bible who I believe understood what it meant to be thankful. David is noted in as a man after God’s own heart. David wanted to live his life in a way that honored God and reflected God’s heart to the world. He is often quoted in the book of Psalms by saying “I give you thanks, O Lord.” You might hear that and think “this guy must’ve had an easy life where he just sat and praised God all day and God blessed him because of it” welllll lets go on a little journey to see what David’s life was like.

* David was born the youngest and weakest of his family
* David was anointed king as a teenager
* David defeated Goliath as a late teenager
* David was anointed as commander of Saul’s army
* Saul turned his back and tries to kill David during his twenties
* David ran for his life hiding in caves trying to avoid Saul
* David conquered Jerusalem as the King of Israel
* David was the father of the wisest man ever born
* David committed adultery
* David had Uriah killed to try and cover up his acts

So from this very brief description of David’s life we can see he was a man of courage, boldness, and a man after God’s own heart. While at the same time he was a man who sinned, faced severe trials, and constant opposition. We often say around here that life has its highs and lows and we see that in David’s life very easily!! David is the author of many chapters in the Book of Psalms. If we had enough time I could show you how different chapters in the Psalms related to good or bad times David faced.

In Psalm 138:1-6 it says this:

***1****I will give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; before the “gods” I will sing your praise.* ***2****I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness; for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.* ***3****When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.* ***4****May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord, when they hear what you have decreed.* ***5****May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.* ***6*** *Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, he sees them from afar.*

One thing that is admirable about David is how he gave God thanks throughout the ups and downs of his life. Maybe for some of you life is going great and you can think of a million reasons to be thankful. Or maybe some of you are struggling and it is genuinely hard to come up with three things to be thankful for. I want you to know you’re not alone. David although he is known for giving thanks to God went through hard seasons where I’m sure in his heart he didn’t feel thankful, but He knew God was with him and he thanked him anyway.

**As we wrap up our time together, I want you to be thinking about things that you take for granted. Be honest with yourself and your table group. If you struggle taking your family and friends for granted, maybe this is a time you can share that and learn ways to express your thankfulness to them. Let’s pray and then we will break into**

**our table groups!**