



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

November 19-20, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

What's The Big Deal? – Week 3 (Gratitude)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Gratitude is a big deal!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**Deuteronomy 8:10-18
1 Thessalonians 5:18**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Thanksgiving Trivia"

Get ready for some random Thanksgiving Trivia! Use the questions as icebreakers or make it competitive with the highest score winning a prize. Think of all the useless...UH, I MEAN...USEFUL information you will know about Thanksgiving when you're done playing!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What is one Thanksgiving tradition you look forward to every year?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

What's The Big Deal? – Week 3 (Gratitude)
November 19-20, 2022

Hey everybody! Welcome to Northview Students! I am super excited about Thanksgiving coming up and all of the fun traditions that come with it.

(Teacher's Note: Share a fun Thanksgiving tradition in your family!)

In this season, it's inevitable that the topic of thankfulness or gratitude comes up. It seems like the most obvious character trait people would have in our society, but it's oftentimes the least practiced. I mean, think about it: as a kid, how many times were you told to say, "Please" and "Thank you"? However, as we get older, I feel like our tendency as people is to have less and less gratitude or, at the very least, be thankful inwardly but not express that gratitude outwardly.

One of the things that can sometimes help us build gratitude is to remember how things used to be in the past. If you've ever had a toy, or an old bike, or an old video game system, an old journal you used to write in, or you use mechanical pencils now instead of #2 pencils (by the way, Praise The Lord for mechanical pencils, am I right?!), you can have a deeper appreciation of what you currently have versus what you used to have.

Take this as an example (**Teacher's note: Pull out your cell phone**): cell phones. Not just a cell phone; a smartphone. (**Teacher's note: Talk about your phone, when you got it, why you like it, etc.**) Did you know there was a time when a cell phone was just a cell phone? Yeah, the only reason you used it was to call someone and talk to them – and that's it. Shocking, I know. I want to show you a clip from the year 2007 when the late Steve Jobs, the former CEO of Apple, announced the latest creation from the team at Apple.

(Teacher's Note: Play "iPhone announcement" message clip)

Here's the interesting thing about that clip – did you hear the people's reactions when they saw all the features of the new iPhone? They were mesmerized! And yet, how many of you when you saw that were like, "Oh my gosh, that phone is prehistoric. Woo hoo...I can scroll through my music and zoom in on my pictures!" However, at the time, people had never seen anything like that. Here's the second interesting thing: this event happened in 2007.

(Teacher's Note: Hold your phone as you're saying this next part) All of you here (with the exception of our adult leaders and some of our high school leaders) are in 5th or 6th grade. Obvious, I know. Well, that means all of you were born after this moment happened. In other words, none of you have lived in a world without an iPhone. It is one of the greatest inventions in modern history. You literally have the world at your fingertips. However, if our phone freezes, we can't airdrop a photo, our data runs out, or we're mad at our family for not letting us download more games on it, we complain. Even when we have the world at our fingertips, we still don't show gratitude.

THE MESSAGE

This, among many other examples, shows that we lack gratitude. Today, I want to talk about gratitude as the focus of our THP (Take Home Point). Here it is...

Gratitude is a big deal!

Just like the previous weeks of this series, we have been reading a passage of Scripture from the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 8. The context for this passage is God has spoken directly to Moses, the leader of the Israelite people, and given him a message to share with the Israelites. There's a portion of this message that focuses on gratitude. Let's read it in Deuteronomy 8:10-18 and then we'll break it down a little bit...

"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."

This is a pretty serious verse because God is talking directly to a group of people that he feels are not showing gratitude. He tells the Israelite people to not forget about Him and obey His commands. Then, He gives them a warning – if you do forget about God when life starts going well for you (when you're eating plenty of food, living in a nice house, when you become wealthier), then you will become proud and think you don't need God. This same God brought you out of slavery, led you through the wilderness with poisonous snakes and scorpions, gave you water to drink, and food to eat. Instead of showing gratitude, you say it was all because of what I did; not God. God then ends by saying, "Everything you have is from me."

Students, can I encourage and challenge you today? When you live a life of gratitude, it makes you realize just how much you need God. Some of us take so many things for granted, and yet all of them are a gift from God. Now, it would be easy for me to end this message and say, "Now go and be more thankful and have more gratitude!" I mean, that's a good start and it's definitely rooted in Scripture. The New Testament writer Paul says this in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Giving thanks to God no matter what happens in life is an awesome practice and that's a great challenge for all of us. However, I want to end our message today with a different focus – a greater focus.

THE MESSAGE

Our gratitude won't grow if it's rooted in just doing better or feeling better or being happier. The greatest reason for our gratitude growing will be in what God has already done for us. You see, God knew that the Israelites wouldn't be able to follow His commands all the time. He knew their hearts and attitudes would become proud and they wouldn't show gratitude – in fact, He knew we would ALWAYS be like that. So, here's what God did: He became a person. He came to this earth in the form of His Son, Jesus, and lived the life that the Israelites (and you and I) could not live.

Jesus was always filled with gratitude. Jesus had all the power and permission in the world to be selfish and instead He was selfless – He served and loved people. God could have continued to punish us for not following Him, but then He did something different, something revolutionary, something that the world had never seen and will never see again. God allowed His own Son to take our punishment and die in our place. He died the death that we deserved! He didn't do it begrudgingly, either. Despite our sin, God still deeply loved us – the greatest love you could ever experience. Jesus was executed on the cross innocently, but since He loved us, He did it gladly. He knew it was the only way for us to experience true gratitude.

An innocent Jesus took the place of a guilty you and me and then the Scripture says He gave us His righteousness. What does that mean? It means that when God looks at us, He sees Jesus's good behavior instead of our bad behavior. We didn't earn it at all – He gave it to us simply because of sheer grace. It is the greatest gift we have ever been given. We simply need to accept it, admit that we can't live this life on our own, and surrender our life to Him. When you realize what Jesus has done for us, and you keep realizing it, and you keep realizing, and you KEEP REALIZING IT, it builds a gratitude unlike anything you've experienced. I mean, how do you repay someone dying in your place? You can't. That's the point. You simply show gratitude and live life thanking God for EVERYTHING.

Our THP (Take Home Point) says, "**Gratitude is a big deal.**" Some of you here may have never known what Jesus did for you. After hearing this today, you might think to yourself, "That's unbelievable that someone would do that for ME!" and be full of gratitude. Did you know that you can have a relationship with Jesus? If you're here and you don't have a relationship with Jesus, then I want to give you an opportunity to start one today.

(Teacher's Note: Move into a Gospel presentation and then close out the message)

If you ever need someone to talk to, our leaders at Northview Students are available to listen to you and help you in any way that we can. We love you guys! Enjoy your time of discussion and we hope you have a great week!

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

*****Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.**

What was the THP today and why was it important to the message?

In your opinion, what is the biggest difference in someone having gratitude and not having gratitude?

Let's read Deuteronomy 8:10-18 again, which is the verse we read during the message. It comes from the Old Testament. Since it's a little long, let's have a couple of volunteers split it up and each read half...

"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."

What is one reason we should have gratitude because of what Jesus did for us?

How can we as a group help each other to live lives of gratitude?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Celebrate and encourage all those students who made a first-time decision to follow Jesus! Make sure to connect with your campus student director so they can follow up with that student and/or family.

Spend some time telling your students how much gratitude you have for being their life group leader. Maybe you even go around the group and have them express one thing they are thankful for about this life group. Moments like these solidify the importance of being in community!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game slides and/or videos
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister

