

Part 42 | Thankful

Acts 18:18-23; Psalm 100

Paul's example shows us that while life is often hard and full of **DIFFICULT** circumstances

life is hard 2 Corinthians 1:8-9; 4:7-11; 6:4-10; 7:5; 11:23-29; 12:7-10; & most of Paul's experiences in Acts; **Psalm 90:10-12**

our fault, not God's 1 John 3:9; Psalm 18:30; Romans 5:12; Genesis 3

—many of which we cannot **CONTROL**— (v. 21; James 4:15)

The 2 "Hands" of God's Will: *Ecclesiastes 7:13-14*

God's active hand Ephesians 1:11; Isaiah 46:10

God's passive hand The example of Job (Job 2:10); Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28ff

we can always choose **OUR ATTITUDE**.

choose to sin, choose to suffer Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 28:58-64

example: complaining Numbers 11:1ff; Romans 1:21



choose to obey, choose blessing Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 28:1-2; 13-15

example: thankfulness 1 Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 13:15; **Psalm 100**; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Have you had some Gospel Conversations? Tell us about it!

Text "**CONVERSATION**" to **833-271-8805**, then follow the prompts.

You can also text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Gospel Conversations

Part of our **Enduring Reach** vision is:

By 2030 the people of Wawasee Bible will engage in 10,000 Gospel Conversations

So what is a "Gospel Conversation"?

First of all, by 10,000 we do not mean 10,000 people, but *conversations*.

A Gospel Conversation is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with someone in need of knowing of his love and grace.

A conversation that points to Jesus as the hero and gives testimony to his grace, as well as our own need for it, counts as a Gospel Conversation.

Here's three (of many!) types of Gospel Conversations:

1. I share with someone what Jesus is doing in my life *today*. Maybe something good, maybe bringing me through a hard time, maybe a point from Sunday's message that hit me, etc.
2. I share with someone my story of putting my faith in Christ.
3. I share the truth of the Gospel, and encourage them to believe it themselves.

Remember the key is to love. **We're loved by Jesus, and so we're sent by Jesus to love others and invite them to follow him with us.**

We'll share more soon, including some ideas to help you spark Gospel Conversations with the people God has sent *you* to!



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. *Have you ever run into someone you knew when you were far from home?*
2. *What's your favorite candy?*

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.

1. What are you most thankful for? Why? — In what areas of your life or for what specific things have you grown more thankful over time? Is there something in your life that you took for granted at one point but are now thankful for? What changed your perspective?
2. This weekend we tracked the Apostle Paul on his way back to the church in Antioch. Along the way he fulfilled a vow, cutting his hair. Pastor Josh noted that it was likely a response to Jesus's promise to protect Paul in Corinth in **Acts 18:9-10ff**. What are some of the ways you give thanks to God for keeping his promises to you?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 (NLT), 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Ephesians 5:20** below. All of these speak of trusting God in *all* circumstances and being thankful. Mark up the verses below and note what stands out about God's commands to be thankful.

- **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
- **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

¹³ Accept the way God does things, for who can straighten what he has made crooked?

¹⁴ Enjoy prosperity while you can, but when hard times strike, realize that both come from God.

Remember that nothing is certain in this life. **ECCLESIASTES 7:13-14 (NLT)**

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (ESV)**

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...

- 1 |  Receiving From God. Am I reading the Word regularly? Am I gathering to hear the Word taught? What is the fruit of the Spirit in my life?
- 2 |  Responding To God. Am I worshiping Jesus or something else? Am I talking and listening to God regularly? Am I repenting of my sin?
- 3 |  Receiving From Others. How am I in community with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?
- 4 |  Moving Toward Others. How am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church or just consuming?
- 5 |  Going Out on Mission. How am I regularly moving out toward those far from God, loving them and sharing God's Story and my own story?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Psalm 100 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS.

1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! **2** Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! **3** Know that the LORD,

he is God! It is he who **made** us, and we are his; we are his **people**, and the **sheep** of his **pasture**. **4** Enter his **gates** with thanksgiving, and his **courts** with **praise!** Give thanks to him; **bless** his **name!** **5** For the LORD is good; his **steadfast love endures forever**, and his **faithfulness** to all generations.

N O I S E R V E K F B C W U
A R S I R H M S N K G O O D
M E F N A J O Y F U L U M L
E E O G I V E N F K A R L I
R L R I E P I H A N D T S I
W G E N E R A T I O N S T U
D A V G A E J E T W E R I G
O T E P R S M N H M S S B V
O E R S T E A D F A S T N B
E S U A H N D U U K H L P U
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B C O M E E F E N T E R O K
T O V P R A I S E H P D P N
Y M E G B L E S S O A R L L
W H I N T F P A S T U R E B

life groups Study Guide (continued)

²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

EPHESIANS 5:20 (ESV)

- In the message, Pastor Josh noted that Ecclesiastes refers to both the "active hand" and "permissive hand" of God's will. Where have you seen both in your life?
- 4. Do you think most people are aware of their attitudes or think about them often? How do you think people develop positive or negative attitudes?
 - Do you think it's easy or difficult to change an attitude?
- 5. This weekend we're coming off the Thanksgiving holiday. Yet many times we might find it more natural to complain than to be thankful. Have you ever considered complaining to be sinful? How does that change your perspective? What complaining attitude can you repent of? (See **Numbers 11:1** — consider reading the full account down through Numbers 14:12 before your group meets.)
 - How does thankfulness lead to greater faith?
- 6. **Read Psalm 100.** This Psalm self-identifies itself as being "a psalm for giving thanks." It's five verses long. For each verse, answer the following questions together:
 - What is the command of this verse? To whom is it addressed?
 - Are there any descriptions in this Psalm of how to keep its command?
 - How does this verse relate to giving thanks —and/or— how does this verse stir up an attitude and spirit of thankfulness in your heart?
 - What do you need to do/change in light of this verse?

Close

- 8. What will you do to guard yourself from complaining this week? Whenever you catch yourself being tempted to complain, deliberately choose to stop yourself and ask the Lord to change your attitude.
 - Is there someone you need to express thankfulness to this week?

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.

Parts of this week's Study Guide are adapted from Juanita Ryan, *Praying the Psalms: 9 Studies for Individuals or Groups: With Notes for Leaders*, A LifeGuide Bible Study (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2003), 44–46.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, November 26, 2023



PART 42



Thankful

ACTS 18:18-23; Psalm 100



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our Digital Bulletin & Connect Card.

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