

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – November 27, 2022

Theme: The World Earnestly Awaits Your Manifestation **Topic:** Manifesting Thankfulness

Main Texts: Luke 17:11-19; I Thessalonians 5:18

Key verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – *“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”* (NLT)

INTRODUCTION: Thankfulness is a universal culture. Most cultures have proverbs which seek to instill the practice of thankfulness. A famous proverb says that “He who remembers to say, ‘Thank you’ will receive again!” When we were young, most parents ensured that children understood the significance of saying “Thank you!” It is the same with our God, thankfulness is a major theme of the Bible, and God delights to receive our thanks. In the Old Testament, thanksgiving was institutionalized in the worship of God. Giving thanks was a thorough and detailed undertaking. In Nehemiah 12:24 it says *“Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua son of Kadmiel. Their brothers stood opposite them to give praise and thanksgiving, one side responding to the other, as had been directed by David the man of God.”* (MSG) Their thanksgiving was not hasty but thorough and detailed; not complacent, nor given in a reluctant or resentful manner.

1. (a) Read 1Thessalonians 5:18 again. How do you understand the statement **“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you...”**? (b) Is there a difference between saying thank you to God and to someone who has done us some good? Explain your answer. (c) Let participants Read Hebrews 12:28, and mention other reasons, this past week, for which they are thankful.

In Jesus’ days, Jews did not associate with Samaritans. Similarly, persons with leprosy did not associate with the rest of the population. In Luke 17:11-19, we see ten men who were living with leprosy, and there was a Samaritan among them – their physical condition had erased the social barrier which, otherwise would have kept them apart. And in their common affliction, they shouted to Jesus Christ for mercy. And without making any distinctions, Jesus ordered them to “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” (Luke 17:14 NKJV). The ten lepers obeyed Jesus’ instruction to go show themselves to the priest. In the Mosaic Law, the priests had the responsibility of declaring clean or unclean. The Samaritan, upon seeing he was healed, returned to thank God for his healing. As someone has said, “No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks”

2. (a) Read Leviticus 22:29-30; Luke 17:17-18. What can we learn from these passages about the seriousness of giving thanks? (b) Why do you think the other nine who were healed failed to return to give thanks? In what ways have we been like the nine who did not return to give thanks? (c) Is there any lesson for us on thankfulness from the way the Samaritan expressed his thankfulness in Luke 17:15-16? What will that look like for us?

The other nine, who were Jews may have felt entitled to the healing. After all, they are Abraham’s children, and *‘healing is the children’s bread’!* (Mark 7:27 NKJV) But the command is *“Thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18 MSG). It is easy to relate with thanking God for some blessing or miracle. But to thank Him when things are not going well is a different matter. Yet, God’s command is that we thank Him no ‘matter what’ i This means that thankfulness should be a way of life for us, our first instinctive response to and in all things. That is why Apostle Paul could thank God despite the persecutions he endured, and wrote, *‘Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ...’* (2 Corinthians 2:14). To be thankful in every circumstance, one must see Him in every detail of our lives, and trust that He has one’s best interest at heart, though one faces difficulties (Romans 8:28).

3. (a) Read Romans 1:21 & 2 Timothy 3:2. What does God think of those who fail to be thankful? In what ways can the truths in Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 1:6-7 help us to be thankful in all circumstances? (c) Let participants mention some difficulties in our lives for which we should be thankful to God?

Prayer: Dear God, You have commanded that we manifest thankfulness in all things. Please create in us hearts that are truly thankful. In Jesus’ name, amen