

RUNNING ON FULL

HOLY HABITS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WEEK 2: FULL OF THANKS

CONNECT

- Looking back over the past year, what are the top 3 things that you are thankful for?

CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

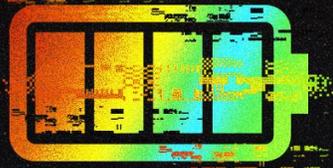
CHRIST

Read Luke 17:11-19 as a group.

- Who is the most grateful person you know? What are some examples of how that person shows gratitude?
- In *Letters and Papers from Prison*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, “In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.” **How would you describe the difference between being grateful and showing gratitude?**
- As a result of their disease, lepers were outcasts and had to stay at a distance from everyone. This miracle not only healed the disease, it allowed these lepers to reenter society. But, only one returned to give thanks and praise to Jesus. **How does being grateful or ungrateful affect your relationship with God?**

Read Romans 1:19-21 & Philippians 2:14-15 as a group.

- Romans 1:19-21 sets up a connection between a lack of thankfulness and a dark heart. **What is it about the absence of thanksgiving that allows the enemy to manipulate you?**



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- Philippians 2:14-15 is a challenging verse for all of us as followers of Jesus. **Do you find yourself spending more time grumbling/complaining or giving thanks? What keeps you from thanksgiving?**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 as a group.

- **What is the connection between “rejoicing always / praying continually” and “giving thanks in all circumstances”? How do the first two help lead to the third?**
- It is easy to give thanks to God when life is good. It becomes a whole lot harder when life is not. Paul, the writer of both these passages, knew hardship, and he continued to give thanks. **How can you be grateful when life has its setbacks, frustrations, and when things don't go your way? How can you foster a thankful heart and an appreciation for God's work in your life today?**
- **Currently, what situation are you facing and finding it challenging to truly be thankful? Why?** Close your group time in prayer over these situations. Encourage everyone to take a short moment to give thanks as you pray together.

CALLING

- **Living Thankfulness:** For the next week, write down five things each day that you are thankful for. Each list has to be different from the days before. Spend time in prayer giving thanks for your daily lists.
- **Daily Devotions:** Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this *Running On Full* series. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside's App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.
- **Further Study and Reflection:** Read Psalm 30 & 136. What do you learn about Thanksgiving? Using the template of Psalm 136, how can you remind yourself of the many reasons to give thanks to God?
- **Memorize:** *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” - Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*