

# The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

## **ELEVEN**

## **THANKFULNESS**

### **DISCUSSION OVERVIEW**

The discussion will focus on our hearts - being called to thankfulness in all things.

### **SERIES OVERVIEW**

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

### **POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

**LOOK** *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

**What is the best way you hear (or actually receive) someone telling you “thanks”? Have you told someone else “thanks” in a creative way?**

**BOOK** *What does Scripture say about this?*

### **Colossians 2:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

### **Psalms 118:1**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

### **Hebrews 12:28-29**

<sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our “God is a consuming fire.”

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray continually, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

### **When and how are we called to give thanks to God?**

*Possible Answers: all the time; be overflowing; in reverence & awe*

### **How well is that working in your day-to-day life? When does it come naturally and when is it forgotten or dismissed to give thanks to God?**

*Answers will vary. Are people still pausing before meals to pray? Or maybe praying before bed? It’s easy to dismiss a prayerful heart of thanks during crazy, confusing and hard times.*

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## **Story of the Good News of Jesus.**

### **Creation**

*God makes all things and they are good*

### **Fall**

*God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.*

### **Redemption**

*God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.*

### **Restoration**

*Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.*

## **THE GOSPEL** *The Good News of Jesus*

### **Where do we misplace our thanks from Jesus to other things or people?**

*Possible answers: we worship and thank the gifts instead of the Creator. We put too much weight in our own or others' abilities or possessions.*

### **What can you do to shift your focus from \_\_\_\_\_ to thankfulness? How can we encourage you to have a thankful heart in daily life?**

*Answers will vary.*

## **Accountability/Reflection**

*Share together and pray for each other*

### **TOOK** *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

*Possible questions to consider:*

### **Consider what God is telling you *stop, start, change, or continue.***

### **What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?**

### **Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?**