

Friday

Please read John 1:1–18. What facts about “The Word” can you find in these verses? From these verses, how would you explain what happened at Jesus’ birth? How is this different from the way some understand Christmas? What impresses you most about Jesus Christ from these verses?

Ask God to help you see his light and shine his light during the Christmas season!

Saturday

Tomorrow we begin the season of Advent, which is meant to be a period of preparation and reflection before the celebration of the birth of God’s one and only Son—Jesus Christ— on December 25. In preparation for tomorrow’s message, please read Luke 1:39-56. What impresses you most about Mary’s song?

Pray that God will use both worship services for his glory.

Some practical behaviors to help develop the habit of thankfulness:

- Keep a gratitude journal – each day write down 1 to 3 things that you are thankful for.
- Count your blessings (not sheep) – before falling asleep, review the events and people that you are thankful for.
- Find a “gratitude accountability partner” – share gratitude lists and be sure to acknowledge where gratitude is due—this will keep it from becoming a bragging contest.
- Go on a gratitude visit – visit, phone, or email someone who helped you in the past and express your gratitude to them.



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Give Thanks

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, November 22, 2015

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?”

¹⁸Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”

¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7

To overflow with thankfulness...

**We _____ we are _____
apart from God.**

Matthew 6:3

New International Version

“Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

Good News translation

“Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor.”

The Message paraphrase

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope.”

We _____ to what God _____

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”
Habakkuk 3:17–18

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Romans 1:21

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3

Daily Meditations

Daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on Sunday’s message.

Memory Verse:

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Monday

Please read Philippians 4:4–9. How do you think Paul practiced this even while in prison? Have you had an experience where thankfulness changed your attitude even though your circumstances were the same? What happened?

Today, ask God to align your perspective with his on the challenging circumstances in your life.

Tuesday

Please read Psalm 100:1–5, then take the quiz below.

Self-Quiz: Do You Count Your Blessings?

1. Which do you tend to talk about more—your blessings or your disappointments?
2. When you lie in bed at night, do you tend to be a worrier, always feeling dread about the future? Or a complainer, finding fault with your circumstances? Or do you tend to dwell on the blessings of the day?
3. Are you generally content with what you have, or are you typically dissatisfied and wanting more?
4. Do you find it easier to count your blessings, or is it easier to count your afflictions?
5. Would others say that you are a thankful person?

Ask God to help you develop the daily habit of discipline. Start today by giving thanks to him right now for whatever you see around you!

Wednesday

The Apostle Paul had to write letters to young churches because there were serious moral issues or doctrinal issues within those congregations. However, look at how he describes his attitude toward these churches according to these verses: Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3. How would you summarize Paul’s attitude? What do you think he could find to be thankful about, when many of these churches were causing him trouble—or were at least causing disturbances significant enough to merit his corrective letters? How can you apply this specifically to your relationships? How will a spirit of thankfulness improve your relationships with your spouse, children, friends, co-workers, bosses, parents, etc.?

Today pause and thank God specifically for certain things about people in your own life.

Thursday

Please read Philippians 2:1–18. In these verses, Paul beautifully and poetically describes how Christ set aside his majesty to become a man. Then he says: your attitude should be the same; no complaints or grumbling. When you live like this, he says you shine like a star! How does living like this cause you to shine like a star in our society? In what area of your life do you need to change your attitude so that you can shine like a star?

Ask God to help you shine like a star through your grateful and obedient (to God) spirit!