



VICTORY CHURCH

Big Idea

Blayde Eberly

What a year 2020 has been. I'm sure as we look back on the events of this year, each of them brings specific emotions and feelings as our expectations were met or crushed. This past week we celebrated Thanksgiving. Normally it is filled with food, lots of family time and connections, and fun. However, for most it was anything but normal. Many of our lives have been turned upside down this year. Maybe you haven't felt like being thankful. Perhaps you're actually angry about what's happened to you, your family and our world during this year. We have heard some even being angry with God, asking - Why did You let this happen God! You could have stopped this! Today we heard a message about two of the most powerful words we can ever use - Thank You - that will help us change our perspective during a challenging season

Blayde shared a story from Luke 15 about a young man who rejected his father, family, and values to live a party lifestyle. However, when the money ran out and he could only find slave-like work and eventually, he humbled himself and went back home. His father welcomed him back with open arms filled with compassion. You may have run far from our heavenly Father. You can be thankful that God loved you so much that He humbled Himself as Jesus to be born in human flesh so He could pay your sin penalty. Jesus did everything necessary for us to live in a right and loving relationship with God (and others). That's something to be thankful for!

Discussion Questions

- What are you thankful for?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and discuss what God directs us to do.
- How do you typically react to something negative?
- How can you begin living a thankful life described in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18?
- Do you feel like you're not worthy of God's love because of your past? Read Luke 15:11-27. The father represents God who is willing to forgive and restore your relationship with Him. It's never too late to turn around!

Prayer Focus

Jesus, thank You for loving us and understanding everything we will ever go through because of Your work on the cross. Let Your Word be a lifeboat to us, engaging us and drawing us closer to You when we feel alone. Place people in our lives with whom we can connect and grow during this difficult time. We love You, Lord; fill our hearts and minds with thanksgiving for always being with us!

Next Steps

Next steps are how we go on the journey that God has marked out for us. Be intentional about listing out the things you are thankful for this week. Write them down and make sure to share your blessings with others.

Leader Tip

Challenge a few specific group members to pray about leading a Group next semester. Many people don't step out to lead until someone encourages them and affirms God's calling on their life. Be that person for your group members.