

November 2024

# **GIVE THANKS and Pray**

**27 Day GRATITUDE  
Journal**

Green Mountain Christian Church



## INTRODUCTION

As a month of harvest, we often see November as a season of giving thanks.

Practicing gratitude should come naturally, but our selfish and sinful nature often get in the way. Yet, the Bible tells us much about giving thanks. Practicing gratitude can humble us, make us more whole, and deepen our relationship with our Lord.

Ann Voskamp states it this way in her book, *One Thousand Gifts*: “We only enter into the full life if our faith gives thanks. Because how else do we accept His free gift of salvation if not with thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is the evidence of our acceptance of whatever He gives. Thanksgiving is the manifestation of our Yes! to His Grace.” (pg. 39).

Would it surprise you to learn that scientific research shows that the practice of gratitude changes your brain and thought patterns into something calmer? It can lead to more happiness.

But it is not just about a practice. It is about giving thanks to the One who gave up everything to restore us to a right relationship with Him: Jesus!



We invite you to spend the next 27 days intentionally meditating on Scriptures that give thanks, and to discover the meaning of a life of *Eucharisteo*.

“In the original language, “*he gave thanks*” reads “*eucharisteo*.” The root word of *eucharisteo* is *charis*, meaning “grace.” Jesus took the bread and saw it as grace and gave thanks. He took the bread and knew it to be a gift and gave thanks. *Eucharisteo*, thanksgiving, envelopes the Greek word for grace, *charis*. But it also holds its derivative, the Greek word *chara*, meaning “joy.” *Charis*. Grace. *Eucharisteo*. Thanksgiving. *Chara*. Joy.” (Ann Voskamp, pg. 33).

As you meditate, each day we invite you to let these passages from God’s word lead you into a time of prayer.

*Eucharisteo*

Joy \* Grace \* Thanksgiving

# HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL

For the next 4 weeks we'll follow a three-day pattern, focusing on one particular passage of scripture for three days at a time. Those three days would look like this:

## Day 1 - READ:

1. Enter this time of scripture reading with a short prayer: ***"Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see You."***
2. Read and meditate on the passage at the top. If you have more than one translation available, read different translations. You can find many translations together at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) or at [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com).
3. Write the verse out on paper. Circle or highlight parts of the passage where God may especially speak to you.
4. Make the verses prominent in your day. Perhaps memorize them or place them where you can see them frequently through the day
5. Use these verses as a guide for prayer

## Day 2 - REFLECT:

1. Write out as much of the passage as you can remember, then re-read the passage.
2. Spend a few minutes thinking about the passage and answering the reflection questions provided.
3. Reflect on whether these verses convict you of anything you need to confess before the father.

4. Reflect on what the verses say to you that give you cause for thanksgiving.
5. Take time in confession and in thanksgiving for what God has shown you in these verses.

### **Day 3 – RESPOND**

1. Re-read the verses, then write them down, but this time in your own words.
2. Reflect on what the verses mean to you. How can we practically apply the gratitude we've learned in the Word?
3. How can God act in you from these verses? Who could benefit from what you've learned? Pray to God seeking his action in your life and in others that you know.

There are 9 selected scriptures. We'll repeat this three-day pattern for each, for a total of 27 days.

On Sunday, November 24, we have the opportunity to respond to our gratitude at our GMCC worship service. Then, we'll take a special offering to provide additional support to various ministry partners.

Please consider giving an extra financial gift on that day above and beyond your usual tithe.



May the Lord bless us and be blessed by us during this season of thanksgiving!

# NOVEMBER 3 - READ

## Day 1 - Colossians 2:6-7

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

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

Try reading from two or more versions and see if any give you a different insight on the passage.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day

### ***Scripture interprets scripture: Read the following:***

*Ephesians 5:12*

*Ephesians 3:16-19*

How do these verses support your understanding of Colossians 2:6-7?



## Preparation for prayer:

Write some things down about God that you see in this passage cause adoration for Him:

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Father, while I was yet a sinner, you sent your son to die for me. You give me an opportunity to know and receive you even when I am so undeserving. You put a path before me that allows me to walk closer to you. You make a way for me to establish roots in you and offer the chance to grow deeper in you.

I praise you, Lord, for you are good. Your mercy endures forever. When I am unable on my own to develop the walk with you that I long for, you make a way for it to happen. You offer your Spirit to lead me, and you give me strength in my faith.

In the same way you do this for me, I see that you do so for all those that I love. I praise you for giving me a way to walk with you, for offering strength and developing my faith in a way that leads to thanksgiving. I praise you through Jesus, amen.

# NOVEMBER 4 - REFLECT

## Day 2 - Colossians 2:6-7

Write as much of Colossians 2:6-7 below as you can remember.

### Re-read Colossians 2:6-7 and reflect

Why must our roots grow deep in Christ to overflow with thankfulness?

How does being “strengthened in our faith as we were taught” lead to overflowing with thankfulness?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

What stands in the way of you being rooted and built up in Jesus?

As you meditate on Colossians 2:6-7, what can you find to be thankful for?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, as I come before you, I confess that I've not let you build roots and strengthen me. I come today, confessing these things that have stood in the way of my walk with you: \_\_\_\_\_

I also come before you thankful for your grace and for how you are here with me now. You hear my prayers, you desire to bring me closer to you. Thank you for your desire to walk with me. Thank you for these things you have done to help me walk with you, for how you can root me in you, and how you continue to strengthen my faith.

Open my eyes to how you seek a walk with me. Show me the ways that you want to help me be closer to you and help me to be overflowing in thankfulness because of you.

# NOVEMBER 5 - RESPOND

## Day 3 - Colossians 2:6-7

Write Colossians 2:6-7 down below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

What does it mean to live your lives in Jesus?

How can your actions reflect “overflowing with thankfulness” as you live your life in Jesus?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

What can God do for you to help you walk closer to Him?

Who do you know that can benefit from being “rooted and built up” in Jesus and strengthened in their faith?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I'm grateful that you desire to help me be further rooted in you and to strengthen my faith.

I come before you, knowing I can't do this on my own. I know the distractions and the things that get in my way, but I want to have a closer walk with you. I want those roots in my life. Father, please work in me and create in me a heart that longs for you.

I don't know how to pray and to thank you like I could. Teach me to pray, lead me to walk with you.

Show me how to walk in a way that is overflowing with thanksgiving. Open my eyes. Remind me of the things I've read and reflected on and help me to live my life in your son. It's in him I ask this, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 6 - READ

## Day 1 - Psalm 107:8-9

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”

### **Read: Psalm 107:8-9**

Try reading from two or more versions and see if any give you a different insight on the passage.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day

### ***Scripture interprets scripture: Read the following:***

*Isaiah 55:1-3*

*John 4:10-14*

*John 6:33-55*

How do these verses support your understanding of Psalm 107:8-9?



## Preparation for prayer:

Write some things down about God that you see in this passage cause adoration for Him:

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Father, in my times of wandering, you showed your unfailing love to me. You are a God of wonderful deeds. You gave us your son, the living water who satisfies our thirst, the bread of life who satisfies our hunger.

I see in you a God of mercy. I see a God of compassion. You created the universe and by your Son all things are held together. By your mighty power you made everything in this world just right. In all of the splendor of all of your creation, you see me. I stand amazed how in the majesty of what you've done, you care enough to satisfy my thirst and my hunger, that it can be met in you.

I praise you today because you are God of infinite glory, power, and majesty, while also being God who knows and loves me. You are God who does the greatest of things and you are God who considers the smallest of things. Through Jesus, I praise you.

# NOVEMBER 7 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – Psalm 107:8-9

Write as much of Psalm 107:8-9 below as you can remember.

**Reflect on Psalm 107:8-9.** How does God satisfy the thirsty and fill the hungry with good things?

Have you had a time of wandering? How has God led you out of that?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

In what ways do you find yourself “wandering in desert wastelands” (Psalm 107:4) today?

What things in your reading and reflection cause you to give thanks to God?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I confess that I am prone to turn my eyes from you and end up wandering as a result. I come today, recognizing and repenting of these things that keep me from you: \_\_\_\_\_

I also come before you thankful for the ways you lead me to a straight way, to a life with you where I can settle in.

Thank you for the way you hear my cries when I wander and for how you deliver me in distress. Thank you for bringing me out of darkness, for breaking the chains, and leading me by a straight way.

Thank you for the living water and the bread of life that you offer through your son. Thank you for the satisfaction and the ways that you fill me. Thank you for the way you satisfy all my needs. I pray this through your Son, Jesus, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 8 - RESPOND

## Day 3 – Psalm 107:8-9

Write Psalm 107:8-9 down below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

Write out three ways God has satisfied your soul. Post them on a notecard or post-it note and keep them where you can see them often. Maybe put them in the margins of your Bible near this verse. Consider sharing your thoughts with someone who needs this encouragement.



## Preparation for prayer:

What are things in life that leave you unsatisfied right now, leaving you spiritually hungry or thirsty?

Who do you know who has a spiritual hunger or thirst?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I thank you the way that you meet my real needs. Only you provide everlasting satisfaction. I come before you with these needs and concerns that leave me unsatisfied: \_\_\_\_\_

I do so knowing I'm unable to fully lean on you on my own. I pray that you help me, give me the ability to turn these over to you, help me find satisfaction in you. Show me how your grace is sufficient for me.

I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ that they may come to know the ways you satisfy the thirsty and fill the hungry.

I thank you Lord for how you take care of every need. Open my eyes to your provision, produce gratitude in me for what you do. I pray this through the living water and bread of life that is your Son, amen.

# NOVEMBER 9 - READ

## Day 1 - Philippians 4:6-7

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

**Read: Philippians 4:6-7** Try reading from two or more versions and see if they give you any different insights.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day

### ***Scripture interprets scripture:***

*How does Matthew 6:28-34 support your understanding of Philippians 4:6-7?*

In Philippians 4:10-19, how does the generosity of Philippian believers shed light on Philippians 4:6-7?



## Preparation for prayer:

Write some things down about God that you see in this passage cause adoration for Him:

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Father, you provide a peace that goes beyond all of my understanding. You watch over me in times of plenty and in times of need. You are the God of peace in whom I rejoice.

In times of severe trial, you are there. In times of extreme poverty, you still provide. You are the God of grace who turns the hardest times into times of overwhelming joy.

As I see how you clothed the flowers and trees in all their autumn splendor, as I see how you provide for the birds of the air, I praise you for you are indeed Yahweh Yirra, "the Lord who provides." You provide not just for the physical things, but you provide hope and life. You provide for the needs of my heart through your Son, and it's through Him I offer my praises. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 10 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – Philippians 4:6-7

Write as much of Philippians 4:6-7 below as you can remember.

**Reflect on Philippians 4:6-7.** Then read 2 Corinthians 8:1-6 and the way that Paul spoke of the Philippian church (the Macedonians). How did the Philippian/Macedonian believers respond to severe trial and extreme poverty?

Reflect on times when we have plenty and times when we have need. How do we respond?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

In what ways do we struggle to rejoice in hard times? What anxieties or situations do we fail to leave at the foot of the cross?

What things in your reading and reflection cause you to give thanks to God?

## **Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Dear Lord, I see how the Philippians let their trials and poverty well up into generosity, and I see the contrast in how I even when I have so much. I confess my selfishness and greed, my desire to get more for myself, and my inability to be content in what you provide. Please forgive me and change my heart in these things.

Father, I thank you for how you provide. Thank you that you can take all my worries and needs. Thank you for the sufficiency of your grace.

In the midst of my trials, you are there to provide peace. In times of poverty when I feel I have so little, I have you there hearing my cries. Thank you for how you guard our hearts and minds through your Son, and we pray this in deep thanksgiving through him, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 11 - RESPOND

## Day 3 – Philippians 4:6-7

Write Philippians 4:6-7 below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

Write a list of concerns, worries, and needs on several notecards or strips of paper. Fold them up and put them into a bowl or bag. One at a time, pull out a piece of paper, unfold it, and think about a reason you can thank God for what's on that paper. Maybe it's how God can strengthen you, or how it draws you closer to Him in reliance, or the opportunity to see Him work His power. Thank God for what's on that paper, then throw it away, praying that you are turning it over to Him.



## Preparation for prayer:

What are the needs that weigh on you at this time?

Who do you know that has needs you can pray for?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I know you can do all things. You are the God who takes care of the birds of the air and who clothes the flowers in the field. Help me to release control to you, and help me to trust in you that you will take care of my needs in the way that is best. Lord, I turn these needs over to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Father, I pray for a thankful heart. Help me to rejoice always, to find reason for thanksgiving in all situations. Help me to lean on you, to present my requests to you, and grant me the peace that is beyond my understanding.

I also pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and the needs they face at this time. Provide for them according to your will, help them to know that you are in control of all of this, and help me to be a witness to your power. I pray this through the name of Jesus, amen.

# NOVEMBER 12 - READ

## Day 1 - Psalm 95:1-3

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

**Read: Psalm 95:1-3** Try reading from two or more versions to see if they give you any different insights.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day

**Read Ephesians 5:19-20.** How does this support your understanding of Psalm 95:1-3

How does the rest of Psalm 95 shed light on the first three verses?



## Preparation for prayer:

Write some things down about God that you see in this passage cause adoration for Him:

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Oh God, you are our God. I am one of your flock under your care. I am in awe as I see you holding the depths of the earth in your hands. I see the mountain peaks that belong to you, the sea that you have made and the dry land you have formed.

The heavens declare your glory and the skies declare your works, to the point that all of creation cries out to worship you.

As I see your works and examine your power and wonder, I join creation's cries as I bow my knee to you in worship.

This day, I join your creation in singing for joy unto you. I come to you with music in my heart as I lift you up for how wonderful you are. Be with me in my celebration of your wonder and grant me a heart of joy and thanksgiving as I come to praise you in the name of your son, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 13 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – Psalm 95:1-3

Write as much of Psalm 95:1-3 below as you can remember.

**Read Psalm 95:4-7.** What does it reveal to you about why the psalmist encourages us to shout for joy?

**Read Psalm 95:8-11.** What warnings do you see about ignoring God's majesty or of hardening our hearts despite what we've seen?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

What are some ways you've hardened your heart, or that you might disregard God's wonder today?

As you see God's power both in creation and in your life, what does that make you thankful for?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I confess that I've so often hardened my heart. I have sought my own glory over recognizing yours. I come before you as one who too often gets lost in my own self to the point that I lose sight of the amazing things that you have done.

Forgive my hard heartedness and help me to have a thankful heart

Thank you Lord for being the rock of my salvation. You are always there for me to come back to. Thank you for your greatness, for the glory of your creation. I am grateful for the beauty of this part of the world you have placed me, and for the many forms of beauty throughout the world. I see the stars and the mountains and I listen to creation shouting out your name. Thank you that I can join them with my own shouts of rejoicing and thanksgiving. I celebrate your majesty through your son, Jesus. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 14 - RESPOND

## Day 3 – Psalm 95:1-3

Write Psalm 95:1-3 down below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

Search for two or three hymns or worship songs that fill you with thanksgiving. (Maybe in your own music collection, or you can often find them online such as on YouTube) Play them daily for the next week.



## **Preparation for prayer:**

What are the favorite things you've seen that cause you to sing praise to God?

Who do you know that loves creation but may not know the creator yet?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I pray that you open my eyes to your wonder. Create in me a sense of awe and admiration at what you have made.

Please, open this heart of mine that I've too often hardened before you. Draw me closer to you and create in me a greater sense of exhilaration at the wonder of who you are. Let your Spirit move in me to join your creation in worship.

Father, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ who I know loves the beauty of your world. I pray that you can open their eyes to see that you are behind it all. Help me to be a witness to help them see the wonder of who you, that they may one day join creation praising you and your son, through whom I ask this today, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 15 - READ

## Day 1 - James 1:17

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

**Read: James 1:17** Try reading from two or more versions to see if they give you any different insights.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day

***Scripture interprets scripture: Read the following:***

*Ephesians 2:8*

*1 Peter 4:10*

*Psalm 24:1*

How do these verses support your understanding of James 1:17?



## Preparation for prayer:

Write some things down about God that you see in this passage cause adoration for Him:

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Father, as David proclaimed, the earth is yours and everything in it. You made the world on the seas and established it on the waters.

You, oh Lord, are the King of glory. You are the Lord, mighty in your creation and mighty in victory. I lift my hands up to you in praise for the gifts that you provide.

You stand in eternity, unchanging and steady. And yet while I am so insignificant against your glory, you saw fit to offer your gifts to me. You gave me the gift of salvation when I did not deserve it. You gave me gifts to use for your glory. You chose to give me birth through the word of truth and gave me a special place through your grace.

Everything I have comes from you, and it belongs to you. I am humbled that you choose to entrust me with them. More than anything, thank you for the gift of life through your son, in whose name I offer my praise today. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 16 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – James 1:17

Write as much of James 1:17 below as you can remember.

**Reflect on James 1:17.** What does it say about who our abilities and possessions ultimately belong to?

Read the verses immediately before our passage (James 1:13-16). What is the danger of focusing on the gifts rather than on the Giver?



### **Preparation for prayer:**

What gifts from God do you focus more on as “mine” or that you not recognize they came from Him?

What gifts has God given that you can thank Him for?

### **Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I confess that too often, I take credit for the gifts that you have given me. I take pride in my abilities or my possessions and begin to think of myself more highly because of them. I confess too that I do not use your gifts well. Give me a heart of repentance, that I may recognize that you are the one behind all that I have and that I may glorify you in how all my gifts are used.

I thank you for these gifts that you have given.

I thank you that you entrust me with the use of these things. I thank you for your grace when I fail to do so, and I thank you for your Spirit who can guide me in the stewardship of what you provide. These gifts are yours. Use me as I use them for you.

I am grateful for your unchanging nature and for the word of truth you gave among your gifts. Thank you for the gift of life through your son, through whom I pray today. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 17 - RESPOND

## Day 3 – James 1:17

Write James 1:17 down below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

Give a gift of gratitude to someone by sharing a note, a text, or a phone call.



## **Preparation for prayer:**

How can God use you? How can he help you to use your gifts to serve him and his people?

Who do you know that needs to know the gifts that come down from the Father above?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, first, I pray that you open my eyes to the gifts you have given me. Soften my heart and change my view, that I may see gifts not as mine, but as tools you want me to use for you.

As I think of the gifts you have given me, help me to steward those gifts well. How can I use those gifts to make a difference for you, or to strengthen my brothers and sisters? How can I use them to help others personally experience those same gifts

I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ who may not yet have come to understand the gifts you give. Spirit, I pray that you work on their heart, while also showing me how I can bring them closer to the gift of life through Jesus. I pray this through his name, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 18 - READ

## Day 1 – Colossians 3:15-17

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

**Read: Colossians 3:15-17** Try reading from two or more versions to see if they give you any different insights.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day.

***Scripture interprets scripture: Read the following:***

*1 Peter 4:10*

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

How do these verses support your understanding of Colossians 3:15-17?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

Write some things down about God that you see in this passage cause adoration for Him:

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Lord, God Almighty, I praise you for your Son, the Prince of Peace, and for the way you let His peace rule in our hearts if we allow it.

I praise you also for the message of Christ. You give us life and hope through Him and we celebrate for what you have given.

Your peace and your message have the power to flow out of us in tremendous ways. Let the way that I use that, the way I interact, teach, admonish, and encourage, let my interactions that come out of what you have done be a praise offering to you. I see what you've done and I see what you've given, and I offer to you my songs, my hymns, and songs from the Spirit up to you in adoration of what you've done and how you provide. Through Jesus, I offer my praise. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 19 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – Colossians 3:15-17

Write as much of Colossians 3:15-17 below as you can remember.

**Reflect on Colossians 3:15-17.** How do the gifts of God cause us to interact with other believers?

**Re-read I Peter 4:10 and Hebrews 10:24-25.** What responsibilities come with these gifts?

How does a life of gratitude reflect joy, peace, and contentment?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

How might you view your gifts selfishly or neglect to use them for others?

What things in your reading and reflection cause you to give thanks to God?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Lord, I confess to you that I have a way of getting your gifts mixed up. I become like a little child when thinking of what you have given me, crying out “mine!” Forgive me for looking at your gifts only for what they do for me. Help me to see your gifts as things I can use for others.

I thank you for the goodness of your gifts, for the perfection of your gifts. I am grateful that you look at me and find the things that are a perfect fit for how you made me.

Thank you for giving me these gifts, these tools, so that I might serve you and your people. I am grateful for these brothers and sisters in Christ that you have also given as a gift, and how you bring us together in community to build one another up. Thank you for the common bond of your Son, through whom I offer this prayer of thanks. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 20 - RESPOND

## Day 3 – Colossians 3:15-17

Write Colossians 3:15-17 below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and re-read your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers

Find a stranger or a homeless person to bless with a gift of kindness



## **Preparation for prayer:**

What are some ways that you can use the gifts God has given to build up other believers?

Who do you know that you can encourage, admonish, or simply celebrate with in gratitude?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I see that everything that I have is yours. Every possession and every gift comes from you. All of my abilities are given to me by you.

Open my eyes and help me see all these things as the tools that they are. Help me to see how I can help someone else out. Who might need my teaching, my admonishment, or my encouragement? Is there someone who just needs my presence or my prayers? Who can I spur on to love and good deeds? Who can you bring into my life that can do the same for me?

Let your Spirit work in me that I might have a heart that desires to do all and give all in the name of your Son. I give thanks to you, Oh Lord, through him and in his name. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 21 - READ

Day 1 – Luke 17:11-17

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

**Read: Luke 17:11-17** Try reading from two or more versions to see if they give you any different insights.

Write these verses on a separate sheet of paper (as it may be too long to fit in the space below). Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day.

## ***Scripture interprets scripture***

*Read Luke 19:5-10.* How does Zacchaeus’s response to Jesus support your understanding of Luke 17:11-17



## Preparation for prayer:

Write some things down about God that you see in this passage cause adoration for Him:

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Father, you are a God of compassion and mercy. While others shunned the lepers, your Son had compassion. While I believe he knew that all but one would be ungrateful, he had compassion and healed them all the same.

I see the same mercy and compassion as you bless me in spite of my own ungratefulness. I praise you for showing a love that gives with no expectation. I see a love that wants to heal not just the body, but to heal the heart and to make us well.

I praise you, El-Roi, God who sees, for you saw the lepers, you saw Zacchaeus, and in knowing that you saw them, I know that you see me today.

I offer my praise to you today through Jesus, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 22 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – Luke 17:11-17

Write as much of Luke 17:11-17 on (you may need another sheet of paper) as you can remember.

**Read Luke 17:11-19 and reflect.** Jesus told the one grateful leper that his faith has made him well. How do you think that faith and gratitude are connected?

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11.** As our special offering on November 24 draws near, reflect on what God has done for you. How has he blessed you? What do these verses along with our passage say about the reason God gives us the abundance?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

In what ways do you fail to give thanks for what God has done for you?

How often does it feel like God is not enough?

What has God done for you today that you can thank him for?

## **Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I confess my ingratitude. You provide far more than I need, but too often I still act like it's not enough. I still seek pleasure or fulfillment or satisfaction in places other than you, and in that way I'm much like the nine who failed to give thanks.

Forgive me my ingratitude and give me a thankful heart.

I thank you for your provision. I thank you that, through Jesus, you have made me well. I come today grateful for these ways that you have provided for me today: \_\_\_\_\_

I thank you for your healing today. You are enough. I thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 23 - RESPOND

Day 3 – Luke 17:11-17

Write Luke 17:11-17 down on another sheet of paper, but write it in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

Re-read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11. How has God blessed you abundantly? How can you use the abundance “in every good work?” Prayerfully consider a thank offering you can make – whether to support ministry partners for tomorrow’s special offering at GMCC, or to be used in in another way that God lead you.



## **Preparation for prayer:**

How can God help you be more thankful for what he's done for you?

Who needs the spiritual healing that Jesus offers that you can pray for?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, please open my eyes to how you've blessed me. Help me to see the healing you give to my soul. Open my eyes to the abundance that you provide, far beyond my needs, and give me a heart of gratitude.

How can I grow in thankfulness? Lord, please remind me that as I enjoy the hope, the life, and the blessings you've provided, to pause and give thanks.

As I see how you've provided healing for me, as I see the hope I have because of you, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_. May your Spirit move them to know the healing they can have through you. And may your Spirit move me to share what you've done in my life. Give me the words and the heart for them, that I can share how you provide healing. This I pray through Jesus, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 24 - READ

## Day 1 – Psalm 50:23

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

**Read: Psalm 50:23** Try reading from two or more versions to see if they give you any different insights.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day

### ***Scripture interprets scripture:***

*Read Philippians 4:14-19 and Psalm 50:14-15. How do these verses help better understand Psalm 50:23?*

Special note: Today at GMCC we'll receive a special thanksgiving offering to support our ministry partners. Prayerfully consider what you can offer out of the abundance that God has given you.



## **Preparation for prayer:**

Read through the entire 50<sup>th</sup> Psalm. What do you see that are worthy of praise for Him?

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Lord, God, you are the mighty one. By your word the universe exists and moves according to your direction. Through your Son, this is all held together.

Father, you are perfect in beauty and in power. Your holiness and majesty are beyond me. The heavens proclaim your righteousness and as the Psalm says, you are a God of justice.

As holy, righteousness and mighty as you are, I am humbled by your desire to walk with me, by the sacrifice of your son to show your salvation. You give in ways I do not deserve and cannot fathom.

I praise you for who you are, and for what you do for me. I humbly submit myself to you. Lead me in your way, show me what I can offer back to you out of gratitude. Let my gifts honor you and reflect praise to you. Through Jesus, I offer this praise, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 25 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – Psalm 50:23

Write as much of Psalm 50:23 below as you can remember.

**Read the previous verse (verse 22).** What warning does the contrast between verses 22 and 23 offer?

**Read and reflect on the entire 50<sup>th</sup> Psalm.** What difference do you see between true gratitude and simply going through the motions of thanksgiving?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

In what ways do you forget God? Are there ways that giving thanks becomes simply a ritual?

What are the ways that God can use your thank offering for his glory that you can thank him for?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I confess today that I too often forget you. I go through the motions of saying “thankyou” while not fully considering what you’ve done for me.

As I think of the extra gifts that were offered at church yesterday, I thank you for how you will use them for your glory. Thank you for the different ministry partners, for their dedication to serving people and to spreading the Gospel. Thank you for their ministries and for their faithfulness in serving you.

More than anything, I thank you for the opportunity to honor you with the things that came from you and belong to you in the first place. I pray this through Jesus, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 26 - RESPOND

## Day 3 – Psalm 50:23

Write Psalm 50:23 down below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

Take extra time to thank God for the various ministries and services that serve others and help spread the Word of God. Pray for how God might bless the thank offerings given to support them and use those gifts for His glory. Pray for Lynn Pottenger, David and Nancy Writebol, Tony and Freddie Herrera, Josh and Amy Barnard, Camp Como, and for local organizations (Sox Place, Jeffco Action Center).



## **Preparation for prayer:**

What are some other ways you can honor God through the things and abilities He has given you?

Make a list of other ministries you know of that are serving God that you can support or pray for.

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Oh Lord and God, I come today thankful for what you provide and for the opportunity to offer gifts to you.

I pray that you help me to see the ways you can use the gifts that you have given me. How can I honor you through my sacrifices and offerings to you? What can I do with the things you have given me? How can you use my talents?

Grant me a heart that desires to serve you with all that I have and all that I am.

I pray your blessing over the work of the ministry partners we support. May you use the gifts that were given in a way that glorifies your name. I pray for those who can be impacted by their ministries.

I pray this through Jesus and in his name, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 27 - READ

## Day 1 – I Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Prepare for your reading:** Ask God to shine light on His word for us. *“Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you.”*

**Read: I Thessalonians 5:16-18** Try reading from two or more versions to see if they give you different insights.

Write these verses down below. Perhaps try to memorize them or place them somewhere visible through the day

**Scripture interprets scripture: Read the following:**

*Psalms 100    Philipians 4:11-13    Isaiah 43:2*  
*2 Corinthians 12:9-10.* How do these verses support your understanding of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18?



## Preparation for prayer:

What are some ways that being thankful in all situations can lead to praise?

**Spend time in prayer**, praising God for what you see in this passage - you can use this as a prompt.

Almighty and Most Holy God, you reign supreme. You are in control of all things and your glory is there in all circumstances.

You have blessed me in ways beyond measure. I cannot begin to offer enough praise or gratitude for what you have done for me.

But, Lord, here is where your glory becomes even more unfathomable. It's when the storm clouds come, when the difficulties seem too much, when life hits me with all its challenges. Because it's then, my God, that your power shines through. It's in my weakness and struggle that your power really stands out and your strength is displayed.

I praise you Lord, in the sunshine and in the storm. I see your hand at work in plenty and in want. As I see your might in all situations, all I can really do is give you my praise, which I offer through your Son. Amen.

# NOVEMBER 28 - REFLECT

## Day 2 – I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Write as much of I Thessalonians 5:16-18 below as you can remember.

**Reflect on I Thessalonians 5:16-18.** How does God bless you through life's more difficult circumstances?

**Read I Peter 1:7-9.** How can God refine your faith and make you stronger through the difficult times?

When implementing the Lord's Supper, why do you think Jesus was able to give thanks for the bread and cup, knowing they pointed to the suffering he'd endure?

Normally on Thanksgiving, we remember the blessing? What difficulties can you thank God for?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

In what ways do you find that you reserve your thanksgiving only for the good things?

What are the more difficult things you can give thanks for?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, today I confess that I am too often fickle in my thanksgiving. I miss the bigger picture, reserving my gratitude for when all is well. I too often miss that it's the hardest times where you do your greatest work.

Forgive me for not seeing your grace in the storm. Give me a repentant heart that thanks you in always

This Thanksgiving, I thank you for the opportunity focus gratitude toward you. I thank you for loved ones with whom I might share that opportunity.

But I'm also thankful Lord for the difficult times. I thank you for how you use the hard things of life to refine my faith and to make me stronger. I am grateful for how you show your power in the times of my greatest weakness, for showing me that you are God, that I can rely on you. Through Jesus I pray, Amen.

# NOVEMBER 29 - RESPOND

## Day 3 – I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Write 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 down below in your own words.

**Respond:** Go back and read through your answers and reflections from Day 1 and Day 2. Spend time in solitude thinking about the verses and your answers.

Start a gratitude journal. Each day, write down at least one thing that you are thankful for. What has God made, or given you, or taught you, or how has He blessed you?



## **Preparation for prayer:**

What are the challenges that make it hardest to be thankful?

Who do you know that is going through a storm right now? How can you be an encouragement?

**Spend time in prayer:** (you can use this as a guide)

Father, I thank you for the times of plenty and the times of want. I pray that in the challenges I face, that you help me rely on the strength that you provide that can get me through this.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see how you work in my weaknesses. Let me see your hand in the pain and the hurt. Refine me through the things that I face, that I might walk closer to you.

Give me a heart that can truly thank you when it's the hardest to do so.

Father, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and the storms that they face. Show me how I can be an encouragement and a support. Show me how I can point the way to your strength, that they too can know gratitude in the hardest times. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## NOVEMBER 30 AND BEYOND

It's a sad irony that just a day after a focus on gratitude, we have the consumerism of 'Black Friday.'

We hope that this 27 day journey has helped you grow in gratitude and in a walk with God, developing a daily habit of dwelling on the good things of God.

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."  
-- Philippians 4:8-9*

Practicing gratitude is an intentional act. It's purposeful and mindful, allowing us to focus on God's gifts. It frees us from worry about what we don't have and lets us gaze at God's goodness. We see his blessing in all circumstances.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave thanks. "*Eucharisteo*." He thanked God, even though he was about to suffer. The hope and life we have because of his death, burial and resurrection are what it's all about. That's something to be thankful for!

*Eucharistea*

Joy \* Grace \* Thanksgiving