



**Connect Group Study - #1** November 4-10, 2018

**Gratitude: Giving Praise to God**

**Luke 17:11-19** This week's teaching

*Genuine, thankful praise does more than express; it transforms.*



**GETTING STARTED**

Take a few moments to reflect on and share your answers to these question: *Other than the Lord God, who in your life (your past or present)*

- ◆ *merits your most enthusiastic praise and thanks for his/her/their goodness to you?*
- ◆ *why? what story or reasons underpin your answer?*
- ◆ *do you think you've expressed sufficient gratitude to that person(s)?*

Do you agree with G.K. Chesterton's<sup>1</sup> conclusion: "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

**IN THE WORD**

Today's teaching from Luke 17, Jesus' healing of the 10 lepers, emphasized that genuine thankfulness not only expresses praise to the One who endows us with all good things, but it is also personally transformative. It lifts us from focusing on the gift (preventing idolatry) to a deepened relationship with the Giver. In this story, Jesus' mercy is intended to do more than just relieve the lepers of their hideous disease, it was to make them well and whole from the inside out. To produce a gratitude which recognizes who He truly is and transforms.

Our time in the word focuses on the final songs in the Psalms – Psalms 145-149. As a group, do the following:

- (1) TOGETHER: read each Psalm out loud, one at a time
- (2) After EACH PSALM is read, take 2 minutes to INDIVIDUALLY note something from a specific verse which got your attention about God's goodness
- (3) SHARE what got your attention with the group

PSALM 145 \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM 146 \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM 147 \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM 148 \_\_\_\_\_

PSALM 149 \_\_\_\_\_

As you've done this together, and shared openly, has any Spirit-of-God prompted "transformation" happened in your heart? If so, share with your group what you are sensing from the Lord?

**MY LIFE – OUR MISSION**

Finish by reading PSALM 150 together. What's your take on what this Psalm is calling out from God's people, from you?

- ✓ What kind of attitude?
- ✓ Effort in praise?
- ✓ How does this call out our lack-of-enthusiasm about the Lord?

Let these Psalms re-energize your prayer time together as a Connect Group. As you pray together, don't hold back. Perhaps go to a new place in your deep gratitude and praise of the Lord. Enjoy His presence, and one another's prayers!

"Blessings!" Pastor David Staff

**NOTE: LEADERS GUIDE ON THE BACK**



Today's teaching launches a November CCC family/team initiative to respond with generous gratitude to the Lord God. Please register for our UL 320 CELEBRATION DINNER (November 17, 5:00 PM) at [www.ccomes.org/unleashed](http://www.ccomes.org/unleashed)  
**Thank you!**

<sup>1</sup> Chesterton (1874-1936) was a brilliant English apologist for Christian truth, author, poet, philosopher, dramatist, journalist, orator, lay theologian, biographer, and literary and art critic