

**SERMON:** Grace and Gratitude

November 25, 2018

**SERIES:**

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Brady

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 7:36-50

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

I. Gratitude's Source

II. Gratitude's Response

III. Gratitude's Object

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group. Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Do you consider yourself a grateful person? What things do you do to cultivate gratitude in your life (journals, prayers, thank you notes, etc.)?
2. Think about the "sinful woman" in the passage. In what way was her gratitude rooted in grace and faith? In what way was Simon the Pharisee's ingratitude rooted in his failure to see his need for grace? Which of these two characters in the story do you relate to the most?
3. What does Jesus' parable of the two debtor's teach us? Discuss these ideas with your group:
  - We all owed God a sin debt that we could never pay.
  - Jesus paid our debt on the cross.
  - Jesus' question "which of them will love him more?" is meant to make us realize that we should all love Christ with all that we are and everything that we have.
  - We are no longer in a relationship of indebtedness to God. Our relationship with God is characterized by forgiveness and peace ("your sins are forgiven" ... "your faith has saved you, go in peace").
4. Like the sinful woman, have you made Jesus and his cross the object of your gratitude? Does your list of what you are grateful for include the blessings of the cross? Read Romans 6:17-18. What is Paul thankful for in these verses? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. How does knowing the blessings of the cross allow us to be thankful in all circumstances?
5. We said that the woman showed her gratitude by 1) enjoying Jesus and 2) serving Jesus. What are some specific ways you can enjoy Jesus while enjoying life this holiday season? What is a specific way you can serve Jesus this holiday season?

Pray: Thank God for his grace in your life, especially his saving grace and forgiveness. Confess any self-righteousness that has prevented you from seeing your sin and God's grace and thus made you less grateful. Ask God to show you ways that you can enjoy him and serve him as acts of gratitude.