

Community Group Discussion Questions

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY – 2020 “Five Kernels of Corn” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Theme: *Learning to “give thanks in all circumstances....”*

For many people, this year may not feel like an appropriate time to celebrate Thanksgiving. But life will always be filled with difficulties, tragedies, pressures and conflicts. If we’re waiting for the appropriate time, it may never come.

We can learn a great deal in this regard from the Pilgrims. For the “first thanksgiving” in 1621 wasn’t exactly appropriate for them, either. Their history is like a storybook in that it serves to point us back to Scripture, as if to say, *“If you want to know what it means to walk by faith and to be thankful, even during difficult times, then examine our history in the light of the Bible and learn from us!”* This is what we will do on this Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

1. What was life like for the first Pilgrims? What challenges did they face?
2. In light of the challenges faced by the Pilgrims, how is it possible to “give thanks in all circumstances”? See Ps.23:4; Heb.13:5; Romans 8:28-29.
3. How would you respond to the Christian who told you he/she was having difficulty “giving thanks *for* all circumstances”?
4. Why is it important to cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving all the time, not just on one day a year?

5. For what could you thank God for right now? Use the following chart to get you started:

Physical blessings:	
Family/Friends:	
Constant care:	
Spiritual blessings:	
Daily strength:	

Share with others at least one item under each heading.

6. How does expressing thankfulness change us?
7. Looking back over your life since last Thanksgiving, for what are you *most* grateful?

Getting Real Together (Accessibility)

1. What difficulties in your life are holding you back from a confident faith?
2. How has the passage in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 challenged you to reexamine your response to stress and difficulty?
3. People outside the church are often watching Christians, particularly in times of stress and difficulty, in order to see if faith in Jesus Christ really makes a difference. Does it for you? How is it making a difference in your difficulties?

Group Prayer Time (Supplication)

Take some time now for quiet reflection and to personally thank God for His blessings to you.

