

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Thanksgiving

Cooking Up a Great Thanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Discussion Points

October 11, 2020

Read/Reflect

1. Read 1 Thess. 5:12-24 out loud. Then re-read 5:23-24 (the goal of the Christian life).
2. Go back over 5:12-21. Which of Paul's instructions stand out to you (choose just one or two). How might that particular instruction contribute to the goal of being made holy or sanctified?

Explore

3. The more you have the more difficult it is to live with gratitude. True or False?
4. What have you found helpful in maintaining a relationship of thankfulness with God?
5. How are joy and thankfulness tied together in your life?
6. What habit of prayer do you (or could you) keep to remind you of God's constant provision?
7. Where have you seen God's grace or favor in your life lately?

Prayer (adapted from Reformed Worship: <https://www.reformedworship.org/blog/prayer-thanksgiving-ten-commandments>)

Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

Response of Thanksgiving

"I am the Lord your God, ... You shall have no other gods before me."

We praise you, Creator, Redeemer, Comforter!, there is no one like you!

"You shall not make for yourself an image of anything in heaven or on the earth or the waters below."

With thanksgiving, we delight in the good purposes for which you have created all things, including us.

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. . ."

Heavenly Father, thank you for adopting us as your children, giving us your family name.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, . . ."

How generous of you! In your creating and restoring and in your rest, you desire that we would be with you.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

Thank you for the privilege of seeing your faithfulness extend from generation to generation.

"You shall not murder."

Thank you for the gift of life and for creating each person as an expression of your love and faithfulness.

"You shall not commit adultery."

Thank you for the beauty and security of marriages, and your faithful love that we experience through them.

"You shall not steal."

Thank you, our Provider, for creating us in community to extend your resources to each other.

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

Thank you that in Jesus you extend your hospitality, even to us who have been foreigners of your kingdom.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Thank you for freedom to celebrate your care for others and for us. You are so generous. All this we pray for the glory of the one true God. AMEN

