

think·thanks

LESSON 2 // WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR PRAISE—PART 1

Big Idea: Praising God is frequently connected with thanksgiving in the Bible. If you fail to acknowledge God and His goodness in your attitudes, actions and words, you lose this sense of praise and your focus drifts from God to yourself.

When this happens, your life begins to deteriorate in several ways. You're nagged by discontentment—a feeling of restlessness, dissatisfaction, rebelliousness, ungratefulness and unhappiness. You can also become tortured by envy and jealousy. Your eyes lose focus on the goodness of God's ways and gifts and you want what the world offers, what the enemy offers or what you want. Losing your praise is a dangerous thing. Don't let it happen to you!

Psalm 100:4 (NIV) *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

Hebrews 13:15 (NIV) *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.*

Start Talking:

- Can you recall a time when you were a kid that you were envious of something that someone else had? What is it?
- Take a moment and share with your group some reason that you have to be grateful to God.

Start Thinking:

- What do you think (aside from honoring God) are the positive impacts of praising? Where is our praise rooted?
- Throughout the Bible, we are encouraged to give thanks and to praise the Lord. Why do you believe this is a consistent message throughout Scripture? Why do you believe the enemy seeks to rob us of our thanks and praise?
- Have you struggled with discontentment; how have you addressed it? What are some signs that you are battling discontentment in an area of your life? What effect does discontentment have in your life if it goes unaddressed?
- **Read James 3:14-16, Proverbs 14:30 & 1 Peter 2:1.** This weekend Pastor Dale shared that envy and jealousy rob us of perspective and can destroy much of what God wants to do in our lives. Why do you believe jealousy and envy are so prevalent in our culture?
- Materialism is defined as measuring someone (or yourself) by their possessions. Another way to explain it is net-worth = self-worth. **Read Luke 12:15-21.** Based on this parable, what should have the highest value? Why do you think Jesus warns those listening about this danger? Why is a "rich relationship with God" (as stated in one translation) the opposite of materialism?

Start Praying:

Ask your group to share prayer needs. Take some time to pray for the areas of need that are shared. Also, pray that God would help your group to maintain an attitude of thanks that would be evident to others.

Start Doing:

- Invite those in your group to prayerfully consider supporting outreach efforts at Church of the Redeemer. Support can be offered by volunteering, donating products, or offering financial support (for those that are able). For more information visit: <https://church-redeemer.org/ministries/outreach/covid-19>