

# think·thanks

## LESSON 4 // WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE THANKS—PART 1

**Big Idea:** Gratefulness brings many blessings and benefits to us—from God and from others. It actually pays to be a grateful person who expresses thanks to God.

This kind of gratitude enlarges you. Grateful people grow as their hearts become bigger, more free to give and magnanimous. Gratitude and thanksgiving toward God open access to all He is and all He can do for you. This is the way you “enter” His presence (Psalm 100). Gratitude also sets miracles in motion. Giving thanks is one of the ways we overcome the works of darkness and invite God’s power to work miraculously in our lives and our circumstances.

**Acts 16:25, 26 (NIV)** *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.*

### Start Talking:

- Do you have someone in your life that is often thankful? What does that look like?
- What is one thing in your life that you are thankful for, that 6 months ago you didn’t realize the importance of?

### Start Thinking:

- This weekend, Pastor Dale shared how God designed us to be at our best when we are grateful. How does gratefulness make you better?
- **Read Psalm 50:23** Why is thanksgiving a necessary part of our salvation? How does it bring freedom into our lives?
- **Gratitude Opens Access- When we have access, we’re in a better position to be effective and fruitful in life.** Read John 14:6- How do we gain access to God? What (besides salvation) does our access to God give us?
- **Thanksgiving is a spiritual weapon.** Why do you think we forget or neglect the weapons God gives us? How can you begin to be intentional about using your spiritual weapons?
- What miracle do you need God to do in your life? Can you commit today to begin your prayer times this week with praise and thankfulness as you believe for that miracle? How do you think this will change your time with God?

### Start Praying:

Start your group prayer time with praise and thankfulness. Pray boldly for one another that thankfulness and praise will unleash the miraculous in each other’s lives.

### Start Doing:

Invite those in your group to continue to grow in generosity. Share the opportunities that are available at our church through our outreach efforts. 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>