

Guide for Growth Group Hosts Week #8: I'm Grateful and Generous

THINK ABOUT IT

God is always doing amazing things in our lives. Share a quick story with the group of what God has done in your life since the last session.

MAIN GROWTH GROUP SCRIPTURE

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When [Jesus] saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" **Luke 17:11-18 (NIV)**

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What does the scripture above reveal about (1) Jesus, (2) the one who returned to Jesus praising God, and (3) the other nine who were cleansed of leprosy?
- What can we learn from the one who returned to Jesus after being cleansed, and how can we practically apply it to our lives?
- (Read the Bible Verse Below) Isn't it interesting that people often take the credit when things go well in their lives, but blame God when they experience difficulties (even if the difficulties were a direct result of their decisions)? What should we remember instead when good things happen in our lives?

Every good and perfect gift is from above... **James 1:17 (NIV)**

- (Read the Bible Verse Below) It's important that we don't let what we want rob us of what we have. What does the verse below mean to you?

Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless—like chasing the wind. **Ecclesiastes 6:9 (NLT)**

- (Read the Bible Verse on the Next Page) Notice, the Bible tells us to be content, not complacent. We should always strive to improve ourselves and grow in our faith, but we shouldn't live in an endless cycle of constantly craving things. In what area of your life do you need to practice being more content?

*...For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through [Christ] who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)***

- Some people are in constant pursuit of money. While money itself isn't the problem, having the wrong relationship with money IS the problem. How you spend your money shows what you love the most, what you trust the most, and indicates if God can trust you with more of it. Read the verse below. Have you been trustworthy in handling the money God has given you? What adjustments can you make to better manage your money (i.e. begin tithing, saving, establishing a retirement fund, etc.)?

*"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" **Luke 16:10-12 (NIV)***

- (Read the Bible Verse Below) God is constantly giving us assistance in our lives. There are some blessings that are visible, and numerous other blessings we may never know about. What are at least three things God has done in your life that you're thankful for?

*Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things... **Psalms 103:2-5 (NLT)***

DIVE DEEPER

Go deeper during the week!

- Read the **daily devotionals** each day found at www.experienceheritage.org/blog. You can sign up to have them delivered daily to your email inbox by clicking here: <http://experienceheritage.org/Devotionals>.
- Read the **Memory Verse** below each day during your quiet time with God. See if you can memorize the verse prior to the next session.

*I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. **Psalms 63:4-5 (NIV)***



PRAYER GUIDANCE

During the prayer time, have each person take a moment to pray and give God thanks for what He's done in their life.

Growth Group Checklist

- (After the prayer, decide who will bring the snack next week and share any other announcements.)
- (Encourage the group participants to have a “quiet time” with God each day to study the bible and pray.)
- (Encourage the group participants to pray for each other during the week.)
- (Remind the participants that they can view the message each week on our website: <http://experienceheritage.org>)