



Week 24 | May 19 Sermon

Community: This week, we will do some thought work together on one of the 10 core values of GROUPS ministry. We will do this periodically throughout the remainder of the series.

Gratitude

FOUNDATION:: Luke 22:17-19 (NLT)

17 Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. 18 For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." 19 He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE:: If Jesus, who was about to take on the sins of the world, past, present and future, and be murdered for them at the hand of ignorant hypocrites, could give thanks to His Father despite knowing what was to come, what in our lives can possibly warrant lack of gratitude and joy as an acceptable way of life?

From *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp: "In the original language, 'he gave thanks,' reads 'eucharisteo'...The root word of *eucharisteo* is *charis*, meaning 'grace.' Jesus took the bread and saw it as *grace* and gave thanks. He took the bread and knew it to be a *gift* and gave thanks...*Eucharisteo*, thanksgiving, envelopes the Greek word for grace, *charis*. But it also holds its derivative, the Greek word *chara*, meaning 'joy.'

Charis. Grace. *Eucharisteo.* Thanksgiving. *Chara.* Joy.

A triplet of stars, a constellation in the black.

Grace, thanksgiving, joy. *Eucharisteo*. A Greek word...that might make meaning of everything?"

From Kevin Korver, Senior Pastor of Third Church: "Could it be that the heart of worship is gratitude in community? Recall that in the book of Psalms, worshipers are frequently invited to enter God's presence with praise and thanksgiving. Will the level of thanksgiving that each of us carries into corporate worship either enhance or diminish our time with God?"

Could we press further to say that the level of thanksgiving that each one carries into group could enhance or diminish both time with the group and time with God? Could it be that an attitude of gratitude fostered within group allows one to enter into corporate worship with a higher level of thanksgiving, resulting in a greater connection with the Father? How can you foster gratitude within your group? Share praises along with prayer requests. Consider worshipping together on a regular basis. Determine how you would answer the deep questions posed here and how you can most effectively lead your group in thanksgiving and praise.

Sermon Title: Corinth to Antioch, Part 1 | Text: Acts 18:1-19:7

Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Discuss the rise of the mega-church in the past century.

What are some of the positives of this movement?

What are some of the potential downsides?

What are you personally doing to make our “big church small”? What will you do?

Discuss Paul’s Christ encounter in 18:9

Why might Paul have been discouraged?

In what ways did Christ encourage Paul? 18:9-28

Discuss the Holy Spirit encounter in 19:1-7

Why was John’s baptism incomplete?

How can a Holy Spirit baptism change our life and ministry?

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

GROUPS

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 18:1-19:7

What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to in this text? Why?

Kevin focused on the relationship between discouragement and encouragement. Would you consider sharing a time of significant despair? How do you “live in and then live through” this period of time? Conversely, would you share a time when the Lord encouraged you? How did He help you in this situation? Were you surprised by His response? Why or why not?

Will you consider spending time encouraging the other members of your group? Please consider sharing meaningful words of blessing, prayer for an encounter with the Lord Jesus, and specific “hope” for that persons future days.