

**Grateful For Relationships**  
Message 02 of the series, "Grateful"

**1. We all need meaningful relationships.**

"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.'" Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

"I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun. This is the case of a man who is all alone, without a child or a brother, yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can. But then he asks himself, 'Who am I working for? Why am I giving up so much pleasure now?' It is all so meaningless and depressing." Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 (NLT)

**2. We should be grateful for the meaningful relationships God has given us.**

a. We should be grateful for family.

"The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the LORD." Proverbs 18:22 (NLT)

"Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!" Psalm 127:3-5 (NLT)

"My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck." Proverbs 1:8-9 (NLT)

b. We should be grateful for good friends.

"Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts." 2 Timothy 2:22 (NLT)

"There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."

Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)

c. We should be grateful for people who have encouraged and helped us.

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

"Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble... A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

d. We should be grateful for people who have given us good advice.

"Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life." Proverbs 19:20 (NLT)

"Though good advice lies deep within the heart, a person with understanding will draw it out."

Proverbs 20:5 (NLT)

"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives." Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

e. We should be grateful for people who have pushed us.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

"Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy." Proverbs 27:6 (NLT)

f. We should be grateful for people who have forgiven us.

"You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (Colossians 3:13 NLT)

g. We should be grateful for people who have prayed for us.

"We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 1:3 (NLT)

"We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly." 1 Thessalonians 1:2 (NLT)

"Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke 11:5-10 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We need to thank God for the meaningful relationships He has given us.

"Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world." Romans 1:8 (NLT)

"I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." Philippians 1:3 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We need to thank others and tell them how grateful we are for them.

"Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers." 2 Timothy 1:3 (NLT)

"I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people." Philemon 1:4-5 (NLT)

Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. "What have I done to deserve such kindness?" she asked. "I am only a foreigner." "Yes, I know," Boaz replied. "But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. May the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done." Ruth 2:10-12 (NLT)

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"How often do you thank those around you for what they contribute to your life? Who would you want to thank today if you only had one month to live?"

~Kerry Shook~

"I think the most powerful way to retrain your mind to be more grateful is to keep a gratitude journal... My teacher told me to write down three things I was grateful for every day... The catch was that they always had to be different, as in no reruns. As the days passed and the exercise got a little more difficult, I noticed myself changing. I started to live every day actively looking for things to be grateful for... And soon, I was finding way more than just three new things to be grateful for each day. I kept going with this for months and can affirm that it is absolutely life changing."

~Sabrina Alexis~

## **Connect Group Questions:**

1. Read Genesis 2:18. Why do you think God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone?" What are the benefits of taking time to reflect upon the many relationships God has given us?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Based on your own experience, why are relationships the most important part of life?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 2 Timothy 2:22. Name someone who is a good friend to you and who readily encourages you. What are some things they do or say?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Describe a difficult time in your life and how a friend helped you endure it.
5. Read Colossians 3:13. Many of us find it challenging to forgive others when they harm or offend us, yet we desire others to overlook our faults and forgive us for the same type of offenses. Who could you thank for forgiving you?
6. Read Proverbs 27:6. How would you restate this verse? Why do we often get upset when friends confront us with the truth?