



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**Sunday, November 23, 2025**

**November 2025 Theme: Giving Thanks in All Things**

**Lesson Title: Gratitude in Action**

**Note:** All scripture references are KJV unless otherwise noted.

### **Key Scripture**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

---

### **Introduction**

As Thanksgiving approaches, our hearts and homes are filled with reminders to give thanks. We gather around tables with delicious food, surrounded by family and friends, and we express our gratitude for the blessings God has given. But true gratitude does not begin or end at the table.

Gratitude is more than a feeling; it's a force. When we recognize all that God has done for us, it should stir something deep within us – a desire to respond, to give, to serve, and to bless others as we have been blessed. In this lesson, we'll explore what it means to live out “Gratitude in Action” – turning our thanksgiving into tangible expressions of love and service within the body of Christ.

---

### **Gratitude: More Than Words**

#### **1. An Attitude of Gratitude**

Gratitude begins in the heart, but it cannot stay there. When we are truly thankful, it changes us! When we could complain, we don't...because we are so thankful for all that God has done for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” It's God's will that we maintain a heart of gratitude regardless of our circumstances. Our faith and trust in

God's plan being the best plan for our lives helps us to keep our hearts right with Him.

Gratitude also opens the door to worship. It invites us to approach God not just with requests, but with reverence and joy. It's good to go to God when all is well and just spend time thanking Him for who He is and all that He has done in and even through you.

Having an attitude of gratitude changes our perspective. There's a gospel song that says, "If the Lord never does anything else for me, He's already done enough." If we were to sit down and try to make a list of all the things God has done for us in our lives, we couldn't do it! Have you ever heard people thank God for protecting them from "dangers seen and unseen"? God has covered and protected us in ways we may never understand. When we realize just how blessed we are, it diminishes the impact of any challenge we may face.

## **2. Gratitude Leads to Generosity**

When we realize how much we've received from God, we naturally want to give. Gratitude redirects our focus from what we lack to what we can share. 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV) reminds us: "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion..."

Paul shows that gratitude and generosity feed each other – our giving brings thanks to God, and our thankfulness inspires more giving.

At Impact Church, there are several times each year that you can put your generosity in action by donating to our Community Reach program. You can visit our website at [impactchurch.org](http://impactchurch.org) for details; what to purchase, drop-off times and more. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## **Biblical Examples of Gratitude in Action**

Let's look at a few people in Scripture whose thankfulness moved them to *do something*.

### **1. The One Leper Who Returned (Luke 17:11–19)**

Ten lepers were healed by Jesus, but only one came back to give thanks. His gratitude led him to fall at Jesus' feet in worship. Likewise, our gratitude should lead us to worship. When God does something for us, we should not just move on as though we deserve what we've received. We should take time to express our thanks through praise, prayer, and sharing our testimony of God's goodness.

### **2. The Woman with the Alabaster Jar (Luke 7:36–50)**

This woman's act of pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet was an act of deep gratitude for forgiveness. Her thankfulness overflowed in extravagant love. Our gratitude should also inspire giving that costs us something – our time, our finances, our resources, our talent and skills. When we give out of love, no gift is too great.

### **3. Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1–10)**

After encountering Jesus, Zacchaeus was so grateful for salvation that he immediately promised to give half of his possessions to the poor and repay those he cheated fourfold. His gratitude inspired him to repent and make restitution. When we truly grasp God's mercy, we want to make things right and become a blessing to others.

### **4. The Woman at the Well (John 4:4-29)**

The woman at the well had an encounter with Jesus that changed not only her life, but the lives of many others who were saved by her testimony. She was a Samaritan, but Jesus took time to minister to her, even though it was outside the norm for Jews and Samaritans to connect. He told her about her life situation (things He could not have known in the natural) and offered her living water, that, if she drank it, she would never thirst again.

At the end of their conversation, Jesus revealed to her that He was the Messiah, the Christ. Her gratitude to God overflowed as she ran into the city to tell everyone that she saw – “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” The Bible says in John 4:39 that “...many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman.”

## **Our Senior Pastors: Examples of Gratitude in Action**

Our Senior Pastors are amazing examples of “gratitude in action”! They were called by God and sent out by their Pastors (Bishop and Pastor Poindexter; Pastor Deborah's parents) to start a church in Woodbridge, Virginia. With only themselves, their young daughter Brittany, no members and very little resources they answered the call and said “yes” to God's plan. And to top it off, in order to do it the way God

was leading them to do it, they left their successful careers behind by faith, believing that God would provide.

Their obedience to God and to their Pastors started their journey to becoming the awesome Founders/Senior Pastors of Impact Church and Founders/Presiders of Churches United ...but it was also gratitude that fueled them.

Even now, 30 years later, their gratitude to God for choosing and using them for this great work shows through. You can feel it in every worship service that is held in our church, in every ministry that is created for people to serve and grow into spiritual maturity. In every message that is taught or sermon that is preached, you can feel their authentic love and gratefulness for God.

Bishop Dukes and Pastor Deborah's gratitude for their salvation fuels the outreach ministries here at Impact Church. They want to see souls saved, delivered and set free – moving from sin to salvation, salvation to stability, stability to success and from success to significance in Christ – where their lives are impacting the lives of others.

You can see the extreme care that is taken with every aspect of how Impact Church operates. From the children's ministry, to the Marketplace, to our events and services...our Senior Pastors have given their lives to Christ in gratitude for what He has given them. Let's allow our gratitude to move us to give our very best for the God who created us, saved us and keeps us!

## **Living Out Our Gratitude**

We don't just say we're grateful – we *show* it. Here are some practical ways to turn our thanksgiving into action:

### **1. Serve Faithfully**

“Serve the LORD with gladness.” – Psalm 100:2

- Volunteer to serve on one of our ministries – we have many options to choose from! Temple ministry, Impact Kids ministry, Welcome Team, Television and more!
- Serve not just out of duty, but out of thankfulness for all God has done for you.

## **2. Give Generously**

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?” – Psalms 116:12

- Give consistently in tithing, offering and other sacrificial giving – in obedience to God’s Word and out of a heart of gratitude. Our giving is not just an obligation – we are called to be cheerful givers!
- Our tithing and offering goes directly into life-changing ministry programs, initiatives and operations that are reaching, transforming and blessing lives every day.

## **3. Encourage Others**

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV

- Say thank you to someone who is serving in ministry! Gratitude builds unity and uplifts the entire body of Christ. You never know the impact your appreciation may have on someone.

## **4. Worship Passionately**

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psalms 100:4

- Our worship is one way that we can show our gratitude toward God. Look back over your life - God has been good to you! When we come into God’s house we should do as David said in Psalms 34:1 “...bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth”.
- Participate fully in worship – be present in the moment, not thinking about your problems or what errands you need to run after service. When the Worship Team or choir is singing, sing! When prayer is going forth, pray! If there is a praise break, give God the praise!
- Don’t take for granted the opportunity to gather and praise God freely.

## **5. Reach Out Compassionately**

Luke 14:23 “...Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”

- Participate in our outreach events, like our door-to-door outreach and food drives.
- Remember that gratitude should always lead us outward—to those who have less, and who need hope and a tangible expression of God’s love and care.

### **Let’s Talk About It!**

Ask each person in your family to share which biblical example of gratitude in action resonates most with them, and why? (For your little ones, you can ask which example was their favorite. 😊)

### **Conclusion**

This Thanksgiving, let’s remember that gratitude is more than a few words we say before dinner. It’s a way of life. When we put gratitude into action through giving, serving, worshiping, and loving, we reflect the heart of God.

Let’s be like that one leper who came back. Let’s be like Zacchaeus who gave back. Let’s be like the woman who poured out her perfume. Let’s be like our Senior Pastors who allow their gratitude to fuel their service and care for the church and for others.

Let’s be like Jesus – who gave His life as the ultimate expression of love and thanksgiving to the Father.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**  
**Sunday, November 23, 2025**

**Gratitude: More Than Words**

1. **Fill in the blanks.** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “In \_\_\_\_\_ give \_\_\_\_\_: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
2. **True or False (circle one).** Having an attitude of gratitude changes our perspective.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. **Answer the question (circle one).** Gratitude redirects our focus from what we lack to what we can share. 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV) reminds us: “You will be \_\_\_\_\_ in every way so that you can be \_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion...”
  - a. blessed, awesome
  - b. forgiven, free
  - c. enriched, generous
  - d. generous, enriched

**Biblical Examples of Gratitude in Action**

4. **Answer the question (circle one).** How many of the 10 lepers who were healed by Jesus came back to say, “Thank You”?
  - a. All of them
  - b. None of them
  - c. 1
  - d. 3
5. **True or False (circle one).** The woman with the alabaster jar’s act of pouring

expensive perfume on Jesus' feet was an act of deep gratitude for forgiveness.

- a. True
- b. False

**6. Answer the question (circle all that apply).** Zacchaeus was so grateful for salvation that he immediately promised:

- a. To give all of his possessions to the poor
- b. To repay those he cheated fourfold
- c. To give half of his possessions to the poor
- d. All of the above

### **Our Senior Pastors: Examples of Gratitude In Action**

**7. True or False (circle one).** Our Senior Pastors are amazing examples of "gratitude in action"!

- a. True
- b. False

### **Living Out Our Gratitude**

**8. Answer the question (circle all that apply).** One way to show our gratitude to God is by serving faithfully. What are ways you can turn your thanksgiving into action at Impact Church through serving?

- a. Serve on one of our ministries
- b. Do nothing
- c. Volunteer to serve at a Community Reach event
- d. None of the above

**9. True or False (circle one).** We should give consistently in tithing, offering and other sacrificial giving – in obedience to God's Word and out of a heart of gratitude.

- a. True
- b. False



**10. Answer the question (circle one).** When it comes to encouraging others,  
\_\_\_\_\_ builds unity and uplifts the entire body of Christ.

- a. ungratefulness
- b. selfishness
- c. gratitude
- d. neglect

**11. Fill in the blanks.** Psalm 100:4 says, “Enter his gates with \_\_\_\_\_,  
and into his courts with \_\_\_\_\_: be \_\_\_\_\_ unto him and bless  
his name.”

**12. True or False (circle one).** Gratitude should always lead us outward – to  
those who have less, and who need hope and a tangible expression of  
God’s love and care.

- a. True
- b. False