



Small Group Lesson 4 | Life Changing Words: Thanks

Main Idea: “Thanks” is more than a response to good fortune or acts of kindness. “Thanks” is a way of viewing and living life.

Main Scripture: John 6:5-13

Get Connected:

1. What was your primary takeaway from the “thanks” message?
2. “Thanksgiving is not the result of perception, thanksgiving is access to perception.” (Virginia Owens) Share your thoughts on this quote.

In the Word:

Read **I Thessalonians 5:16-18**

1. “God’s will” is interpreted as “God’s best offer which can be rejected or accepted.” How does this impact your understanding of verses 16-18a?
2. Describe someone you know who lives out these verses.

Read **John 6:5-13, 48-51**

1. How do Phillip and Andrew’s responses to Jesus’ instruction differ?
2. What is the significance of Jesus giving thanks before the miracle?
3. How does the multiplication of loaves and fishes illustrate what Jesus says later in verses 48-51?

Application:

1. Take a moment to consider something for which it is difficult for you to be thankful. Share with the group 3 things related to that circumstance where the “the rain (difficult circumstance) is bringing life.”
2. How does Jesus being “the living bread” impact your ability to “rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances?” How will you put this verse into practice this week?

Possible Closing Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the grace upon grace you give to us every day. By your Holy Spirit, continue to transform our hearts and minds so that we are able to give “thanks” in all circumstances because of who you are in our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.