

DISCUSSION NOTES

NOV. 28, 2021

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23 as a group.
2. Call out some of Paul's instructions to the believer.
3. In the very middle of this passage, Paul calls his readers to give thanks in all circumstances. Read James 1:1-2 and Romans 5:1-5. How do these passages help us to further understand "all circumstances?"

LIVING IT OUT

4. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, Paul says to *rejoice always* and to *pray without ceasing* and to *give thanks in all circumstances*. Which is most challenging for you to live out and why?
5. How do you think living a life of gratitude in all things might change your day to day life at home, at work, at school?
6. Try to think of one area in life that you are struggling to be grateful in and ask God what he is trying to show you in it. What is one thing you might be able to change to move your heart toward gratitude in this situation?
7. If all believers lived from a place of gratitude as Paul describes, what impact do you think this would have in our neighborhoods, workplaces, cities, world?

As you end, spend some time practicing praying prayers of gratitude as a group.