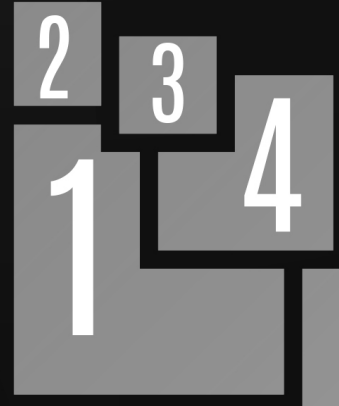


PENTECOSTAL LIFE

SMALL GROUP
Facilitator's Guide

The Principle Power Process Priority of Giving Thanks



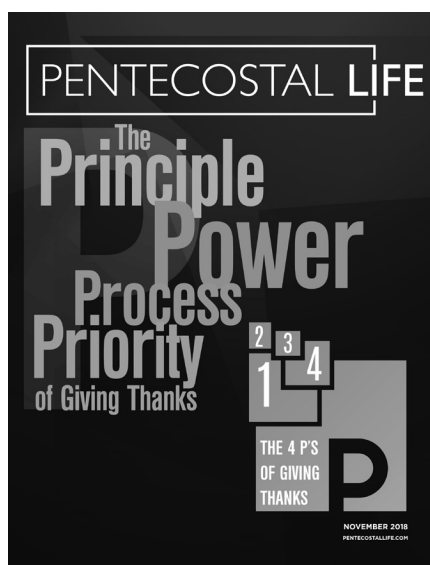
THE 4 P'S
OF GIVING
THANKS

NOVEMBER 2018
PENTECOSTALLIFE.COM

SMALL GROUP

Facilitator's Guide

Welcome to *Pentecostal Life's* small group study, *Giving Thanks*. Thank you for providing leadership for this four-session study. Your enthusiasm for the study will help to inspire and educate your group members on the giving of thanks.



Giving Thanks —Small Group Overview

Authors: James Boatman, James A Littles Jr., Joanne Putnam, Daniel Sirstad

Session:	Session Name / <i>Pentecostal Life</i> article:
Session One	The Principle of Giving Thanks: In Everything Give Thanks
Session Two	The Process of Giving Thanks: Acts of Thankfulness
Session Three	Priority of Thanksgiving: An Evaluation Tool for Daily Spiritual Growth
Session Four	The Power of Giving Thanks: It's More Than Being Thankful

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OUR VISION

The *Pentecostal Life* in every Pentecostal home

OUR MISSION

To publish a Pentecostal magazine that strengthens the hands of Pentecostal pastors, encourages and challenges Pentecostal believers, and reaches beyond the doors of Pentecostal churches

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PENTECOSTAL LIFE

Small Group Facilitator's Guide

Launching the Study

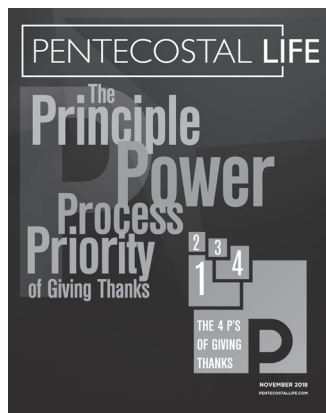
This study focuses on the principle, process, priority, and power of giving thanks. It uses the four ENGAGE articles in the November 2018 issue of the *Pentecostal Life*. Every member of your group should have a copy of the magazine. As a leader, you will need the magazine and the downloadables from pentecostallife.com.

Before the Study

- Pray that you and the members of the group will be ready to receive what God wants to reveal to them through this study.
- Make sure your group size is small enough to encourage interaction by all participants; if it is too large, consider breaking up into several study groups.
- Set up a circular area where all participants have a seat that allows them to see each other.
- Place an extra chair in the circle to remind the group of the evangelistic nature of the study group. The group members can be encouraged to bring visitors and to pray for their salvation.
- As the facilitator, you should read the four ENGAGE articles to become familiar with the scope of the study.
- Each week, read the discussion questions and think through the answers you anticipate will be given. Prepare to lead the conversation and make notes on the direction you will take.
- Make certain each member of the study group purchases or has access to the November 2018 issue of the *Pentecostal Life* magazine. *Pentecostal Life* is available in single or bundle subscriptions at pentecostallife.com.
- Each week, instruct your study group members to read the appropriate ENGAGE article for the following week's discussion.
- Make a copy of the Study Guide for each student. They, as well as this Facilitator's Guide, are available as a download at pentecostallife.com in both Word document and PDF formats.

During the Study

- **Focus.** It is easy for small group discussions to veer away from the goal of the study. Gently encourage group members back to the question at hand if this happens.
- **Include.** Ask specific questions of those who are more hesitant to participate to encourage them to join the discussion.
- **Pray.** As appropriate, pray for the members of the group who are struggling.



SESSION ONE

The Principle of Giving Thanks: In Everything Give Thanks

Objective

To understand the extreme importance in giving thanks in everything and its relationship to God's will

Opening

1. List five things for which you are thankful.
2. Now, put them in order of importance to you.
3. After putting them in order of importance, did you think of some other things you would like to place in the list of five things?

Key Scriptures

Genesis 50:20; Matthew 11:25; Luke 22:42;
John 6:11; Acts 17:28; I Thessalonians 1:6–8;
2:1–2, 14; 3:3–4; 5:14–22; I Peter 3:15–17;
II Peter 1:4; Revelation 4:9–10

**“Giving thanks appropriately follows
rejoicing and prayer.”**

SESSION ONE (CONT.)

The Principle of Giving Thanks: In Everything Give Thanks

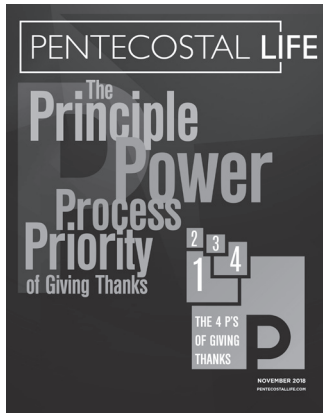
Discuss the following questions:

1. Is not the very first principle of Christian experience that of giving thanks?
2. What are the four recorded examples of Jesus giving thanks?
3. How does thanksgiving reflect the divine nature of God in you?
4. How are the four recorded examples of Christ's giving of thanks progressive in nature and applicable to our experience?
5. What gift will you give to the Lord when you arrive in Heaven?

Assignment

Read "The Process of Giving Thanks: Acts of Thanksgiving" before next session.

[illegible]



SESSION TWO

The Process of Giving Thanks: Acts of Thankfulness

Objective

To enable us to think of ways to give/display genuine thankfulness, not only to Jesus but to those whom Jesus uses to bless us

Opening

1. To whom do you need to express thanks?
2. How can you show your thankfulness to this person?

Key Scriptures

Mark 14:9; I Thessalonians 1:2;
II Timothy 1:3; 3:2

**“Thankfulness should be spoken
and demonstrated.”**

SESSION TWO (CONT.)

The Process of Giving Thanks: Acts of Thankfulness

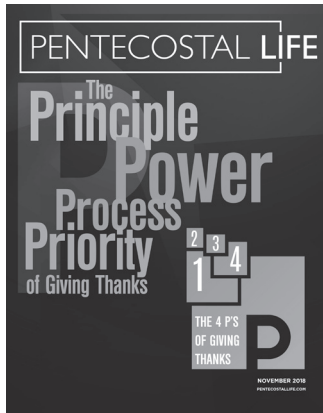
Discuss the following questions:

1. Who has shown thankfulness to you in a tangible way?
2. To whom have you shown thankfulness?
3. How have you shown thankfulness to your spiritual leader?
4. Think of three ways you can be a blessing to your pastor, pastor's wife, or youth pastor.
5. We all have someone from our past for whom we are extremely thankful. How can you tangibly thank them for all they have done for you?

Assignment

Read "Priority of Thanksgiving: An Evaluation Tool for Daily Spiritual Growth" before next session.

[illegible]



SESSION THREE

Priority of Thanksgiving: An Evaluation Tool for Daily Spiritual Growth

Objective

To learn to place high priority on giving thanks

Opening

1. Describe the time and place of your most thankful moment or season.
2. What was the cause of that intense moment or season of thankfulness?

Key Scriptures

Philippians 4:11; Colossians 4:2–4;
I Thessalonians 5:18; I Timothy 1:11–16

**“Learning to pray with watchful
thanksgiving sets the stage for
a fulfilling life.”**

SESSION THREE (CONT.)

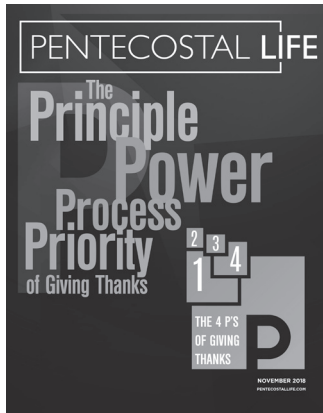
Priority of Thanksgiving: An Evaluation Tool for Daily Spiritual Growth

Discuss the following questions:

1. What other biblical character or author exhibited a thankful life? How might their example provide direction for your as you grow in thankfulness?
2. What are some benefits of celebrating a Thanksgiving Day? What are some dangers of a Thanksgiving Day?
3. Paul gave his testimony in the Book of Acts as well as some of his letters. How can you tell your story in a way that highlights God's grace and helps the hearer see your gratitude?
4. When are you most able to express thanksgiving for the right reasons?
5. What are some moments or circumstances that cause you not to be thankful? After generating a list, consider repenting over those seasons of ingratitude.
6. How might you follow Paul's call to give thanks in the circumstances in the question above? Intentionally follow through with your plan the next time you encounter those circumstances.
7. Examine your current prayer list. How could you modify the list in light of Paul's example in Colossians 4?
8. Reflect on your last three days. How thankful are you at various times of the day? What triggers your increase in thankfulness? What decreases your thankfulness? How can you use this information?
9. How might you modify your social media presence to reflect a life of thanksgiving?
10. Consider writing a thanksgiving obituary that could reflect your thankfulness to others. As you write and review the obituary, how might you change your outlook, prayers, and service to others to further increase your thankfulness.

Assignment

Read "The Power of Giving Thanks: It's More Than Being Thankful" before the next session.



SESSION FOUR

The Power of Giving Thanks: It's More Than Being Thankful

Objective

To examine the subtle yet vast difference
between being thankful and giving thanks

Opening

1. In your understanding, what is the difference between being thankful and giving thanks?
2. Can you explain the difference by giving an example from your life?

Key Scriptures

Luke 17:12–18; Acts 20:35;
1 Thessalonians 5:18

**“Being thankful is reactive;
giving thanks is proactive.”**

SESSION FOUR (CONT.)

The Power of Giving Thanks: It's More Than Being Thankful

Discuss the following questions:

1. If you were one of the ten lepers, what thoughts would go through your mind moments after you realized you were healed?
2. What are some possible reasons none of the Jews returned to give thanks to Jesus?
3. What are some examples of times you have not given thanks? What impact may that have had on others?
4. What are some examples of times you have given thanks? What are some of the benefits that came as a result of giving thanks?
5. How do you feel when others do not give you thanks or appreciation?
6. Are you willing to take the seven-day test, looking for ways to give thanks?
7. Do you prefer spending time with people who are appreciative or people who are not? Which person are you?

[illegible]