

creator of the universe.

This week we will look at the word **Thankfulness**. Think about what makes you thankful. Is it when someone does something nice for you? Do you naturally have a thankful heart?

Gratitude is what we experience when we perceive that what we have received is an undeserved gift of God's grace. It is a fruit of humility; it's inherently unselfish. We don't feel true gratitude toward ourselves, but only towards someone else who treats us better than we deserve. Thankful people are not only the most spiritually healthy and spiritually protected, but very often the happiest.

This week we will look at the gratitude of King David in 1 Chronicles 16. David's thankfulness was an expression and overflow of his worship.

Read 1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 15:25-29 & 1 Chronicles 16:7-36

(Leader Insight) The context for the passage of scripture is that David completed building house for himself and his wives. He also constructed a tent to house the ark of the covenant, which signified the presence of the Lord. The ark was kept at the house of Obed-edom until the tent to house the ark was complete. After King David's capture of Jerusalem, however, the Ark was moved to that city. This action joined Israel's major religious object with the monarchy and the city itself into a central symbol of union of the Israelite tribes. As the site for a future temple, David chose Mount Moriah, or the Temple Mount, where it was believed Abraham had built the altar on which to sacrifice his son Isaac. (David did not build a permanent structure for the ark, but his son Solomon built the actual temple and completed the work in 957 BC)

We will apply the **H.E.A.R** method of Bible study for this series.

- **Highlight:** Read and observe everything in the passage(s).
- **Explain:** Based on your reading, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** Understand how the meaning of the passage affects your life.
- **Respond in Prayer:** Pray God's word back to him, asking to believe, share, and put the Bible into practice in your life and relationships.

Discussion Questions

Highlight

Question 1: What is happening in the text

Question 2: What are some things you notice from this passage? What is the context in which this is taking place?

Question 3: How does thankfulness affect your life and the lives of others? Where does thankfulness come from?

Explain

Question 4: Why did David assemble all of Israel in Jerusalem then they brought in the Ark? (1 Chron. 1-3)

Question 5: In 1 Chron. 15:27-29, why is David dancing and singing in the streets?

Question 6: Why was Saul's daughter so angry and despised King David?

(Leader Insight) King David had conquered the land and King Saul committed suicide by falling on his own sword in order to avoid being captured by the Philistines? David assumed the throne shortly after Saul's death. Michal was one of Saul's daughters, and she despised David because a king should not act so undignified and foolish in public.

Question 7: In 1 Chronicles 16:7-36, what are some of the words that stick out to you that David used to in his psalm of thanksgiving?

Question 8: Why did David write these words? (Note: it was a celebration, a time of remembrance, and a time of praise, because of God's goodness.

Quote by J.I. Packer "We need to discover all over again that worship is natural to the Christian, as it was to the godly Israelites who wrote the psalms, and that the habit of celebrating the greatness and graciousness of God yields an endless flow of thankfulness, joy, and zeal."

Apply

Question 9: How does this passage give you encouragement? What is God teaching you through this story of how David expressed gratitude because the ark had it's home?

Question 10: How does reading and applying what happened in 1 Chronicles 15-&16 help you develop a thankful heart?

Question 11: When is a time in your life that you were so overwhelmed with thanksgiving that it cause you to act "foolishly" or act undignified? (give people an opportunity to respond)

Question 12: Think about what God did for you in the gospel, how should this create an attitude of thankfulness in you?

Question 13: What causes you to not be thankful? How does pride stand in the way of your thankfulness?

Question 14: Is being thankful difficult for you? Why or why not?

Respond in Prayer

Next Steps

- 1. Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.**
- 2. Pray that God would open your eyes so that you can see how to be thankful.**
- 3. Write down a prayer of thanksgiving this week.**
- 4. Share with the group ways you can show gratitude this week? Look for those opportunities. Share them at the next meeting.**

Pray & Dismiss