

Closer

TALK IT OVER

Gratitude: The Key to a Blessed Life

Closer - Week 3

Pastor Buddy Owens

November 29-30, 2025

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Psalm 103:10, Psalm 100:4, Hebrews 12:28, Psalm 30:11–12, Psalm 22:3, 1 Samuel 30:6, Isaiah 6:1, Psalm 89:15, John 11:41–44

Questions

1. Share an example of someone who models gratitude? How does their example influence you?
2. Read Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, and Psalm 103:10. The opposite of gratitude is entitlement, the attitude that I deserve better treatment and better things. According to these passages, what do we deserve? How does this sobering reality reshape your own attitude? Where do you notice entitlement affecting your relationship with God or others?
3. Psalm 100:4 (NIV) says, “*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*” Hebrews 12:28 (NIV) says, “*...Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably...*” These verses teach that we are to approach God with thanksgiving and praise. Why are these attitudes important? How does practicing gratitude change the way we view our circumstances?
4. Psalm 30:11–12 (NLT) says, “*You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and not be*

silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!" How does gratitude redirect our perspective toward joy? What burdens, sorrows, or anxieties do you need to turn over to God so you can experience the same joy David expressed? Share a time God turned your mourning into joy, and how can you remember to thank him for what he did?

5. 1 Samuel 30:6 (ESV) says, "...David strengthened himself in the Lord his God." How does remembering and giving thanks for what God has already done strengthen your faith for what you are facing today? Where in your life do you need your faith strengthened right now? Sharing our stories and writing down what God has done are two practical ways to help us remember. Why is remembering important?
6. Psalm 22:3 (NLT) says, "You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel." Isaiah 6:1 (NIV) says, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple." How does gratitude lead us to worship God, and how does worship align us with his throne? What does this demonstrate to God about your life and your belief in his care?
7. Psalms 89:15 (NIV), "Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord." When we acclaim the Lord, we welcome him into our circumstances and declare his greatness. What does it look like to walk in the light of God's presence?
8. John 11:41-44 (NIV) says, "'Father, I thank you that you have heard me...' When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out..." How does thanking God in advance differ from thanking God after the fact? What steps can you take to make gratitude to God a daily habit?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group. This assessment will help you see how your small group is balancing the five purposes and will give you suggested next steps for each purpose. Click here to take the Group Health Assessment:
<https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Maturity@saddleback.com

2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to check out Saddleback's ever-growing library of small group curricula.

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