

– The Importance Of Gratitude –

Ice-Breaker:

Have you ever met someone who was an 'Eeyore?' You know, the person who is always down and pessimistic? Why do you think they are so pessimistic?

Pope Francis said recently, "A Christian can never be a pessimist!" Is this true?

Is there a difference between biblical hope and worldly optimism?

Discussion Questions:
Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 2 Peter 1:2-4

1. Paul gives three imperative statements here: always, continually, and in all circumstances, as 'God's will in Christ Jesus.' What does this mean to you?

2. How are all three of these visibly lived out for Christians?

3. These three commands are possible because of placing faith in Christ. There are times when we think of our salvation as one-time thing, but we are also told by Paul in Phil 2:12-13 to continue to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. This is NOT a verse on working to earn salvation, but one of reminder, of the need for salvation and our ability to express our gratitude for this salvation regularly. How do these three commands play into showing gratitude?

4. Verse 3 tells us that we have everything we need for life and godliness. What does 'everything' mean? Is there anything it doesn't include?

5. What does it mean to 'become partakers of the divine nature?'

6. Knowing what God has given us in these verses, how does that help shape our ability to express gratitude?

7. Peter uses the words Precious and Great to describe God's promises. What makes these promises so great and precious?

Application:

Take some time this week to list out some of the great and precious promises in your life and express your gratitude towards Christ for them.