

**Gratitude**

*Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage. WRITE your thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*

**Monday, 4/21/08 – Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-19**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Today's reading is a prayer of David, king of Israel, at the beginning of the building of the Jewish temple. ... Notice verse 14. Here David expresses one of the central insights of Jewish and Christian spirituality -- when we say thanks to God, when we make offering to God, we are giving what God gave us first. Our love relationship with God is a relationship of mutual giving. God gives to us, and we in turn give back and say thanks to God. ... Is this the way you think of saying "thank you" to God?

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**Tuesday, 4/22/08 – Read Psalm 107:1-21**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: The Psalms are abundant with expressions of thanksgiving – thanksgiving for all the lofty and all the mundane parts of our human living. As you read through today's Psalm, notice what the writer is thankful for. Then write your own brief psalm, thanking God for the specific blessings and goodness in your life.

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**Wednesday, 4/23/08 – Read Psalm 118:21-29 and John 11:41**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Today's Psalm specifically thanks God for answering. And Jesus thanks God for having heard him. ... Of course, sometimes it may seem to us that God isn't answering or even hearing. But probably there are other times in your life when you had a sense that God was hearing you -- and answering you. Can you remember such a time? Make some notes for yourself about what that time was like for you. And in your prayer today, say thanks.

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**Thursday, 4/24/08 – Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Be particularly careful with today's reading. It's a grim list vices and bad behaviors. But notice in verse 2, among all the other vile traits is "ungrateful." Why do you think being ungrateful deserves to be in a list like this? Is it really so bad? ... Think for a moment about people you have known who were ungrateful. What were they like?

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**Friday, 4/25/08 – Read Luke 17:11-19**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Jesus himself had to deal with the absence of gratitude. In today's reading only one of 10 healed lepers comes back to say "thank you." Notice Jesus reaction and response. What do you imagine he was feeling? What do you imagine he was feeling toward the one who said thanks? What do you imagine he was feeling toward the nine who didn't?

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Reach UP, Reach IN, Reach OUT

**Gratitude: The Source of Real Life**

**Saturday, 4/26/08 – Read Colossians 3:12-17**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Today's reading instructs us "be thankful" (verse 15) and it speaks of "gratitude in your hearts" (verse 16). ... Today's reading focuses attention on our inner disposition, the quality of our hearts. In the teachings of Jesus and in Christian faith generally, outward behavior and inner attitudes are closely linked together. Why do you think Jesus emphasized this so much? How do our inner attitudes affect our outward behavior? What is it like when someone says "thank you" but doesn't feel gratitude?

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**Sunday, 4/27/08 – Read Philippians 1:3-11**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Who are the people in your life that you are thankful for? Who are the ones for whom you feel gratitude whenever you think of them? ... In today's reading, Paul says he feels this way about the people of the church in Philippi. ... One of God's greatest and most important gifts to us are the people in our lives, those with whom we share the ups and downs of living. ... In your prayer today, thank God for those special people.

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**What do I want to remember out of today's message?**