



Cultivating a Thankful Heart

With Diana de Fouler, Central America Director
of Moms in Prayer International

To view the accompanying video, go to
MomsInPrayer.org/Cultivating-Thankful-Heart-Bible-Study/

Group Discussion Question: Over the past three weeks, how has God been cultivating a thankful heart in you?

1. You have probably heard this interaction: someone says, “God is Good.” You respond, “All the time.” Then they say, “All the time” and you reply, “God is Good.” God’s goodness is true, regardless of circumstances or outcome. He is good because of who He is, and because he walks with us through the difficult circumstances of our lives. Look up the verses below, and write down the ways the goodness of God is with you in difficult times.

Isaiah 41:10

Deuteronomy 31:6

Romans 8:38-39

2. ***“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; his love endures forever” is mentioned multiple times in scripture such as Psalm 107:1, 118:1 and I Chronicles 16:34.*** How would you describe the goodness of God? Describe his goodness in greater detail using the prompts below.

Your Salvation:

Your Family:

His Provisions:

Lessons, He has Taught You:

3. In the video, Diana quotes, **Romans 8:28: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*** Often, we question God's goodness when it comes to our suffering because we don't understand.

Joni Eareckson Tada, has been a quadriplegic for more than 40 years, following a paralyzing diving accident. In the video, *Joni's Corner: Why Does God Allow Suffering*, she says, "God permits what He hates, to accomplish that which He loves." She continues, "Even at the cross, God permitted what He hated: the agonizing death of His own precious Son. He hated that, in order to accomplish something that He loved, that He prized above that death and that is salvation for a world of sinners. Oh friend, and in the same way He hates spinal cord injury, He hates mental illness, autism and all the rest, yet, He permits these things to accomplish something far more precious in our lives. and that is patience, endurance, compassion, refined faith, and best of all, a deeper trust in God and a love for the Savior."

Joni's life and ministry are a stunning testimony of how God can use a tragedy to impact the lives of millions. Is there a difficult part of your testimony that God has used to transform your relationship with Him?

4. In **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, Paul commands us to, "***Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***"

Notice that the word "in" is used. It does not say to give thanks "for" all circumstances. The circumstance can be big or small, but in either case, it's not the circumstance itself that the verse is saying to be thankful for. We can give thanks in all things because thanksgiving is a response to the goodness and grace of God.

Secondly, note that "this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Why do you think the three commands (rejoice, pray and give thanks) are God's will for you?

Rejoice *always*-

Pray *continually*-

Give thanks *in all circumstances*-

5. Throughout the videos, Diana mentions Bible characters who gave thanks in the midst of less-than-ideal life circumstances: Hannah, Joseph, Naomi, Job, Daniel, the leper, David, and Paul. These stories encourage us on our journey of cultivating a thankful heart.

“The best stories are centered on the hope and gratitude we live out in the midst of our imperfect stories, because all of the glory is shifted away from us and back onto the real hero of our story... our perfect Savior. A woman who is confident and content in who she is in Christ, overflows with gratitude, even in the midst of her less than perfect story, allowing God’s beautiful story of redemption to continue to shine through her to the next generation.” -lovegodgreatly.com

Let’s close this study by writing a prayer, asking God to use our own unique story to impact those around us, particularly our children.



Pray with Us ...
for your children and their schools
using the *four steps of prayer*
Praise
Confession
Thanksgiving
Intercession

To connect with a local group, go to MomsInPrayer.org



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in Prayer
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