Thanksgiving: Give Thanks in Everything

November 29, 2026 Pastor David Uth

Thanksgiving Message

Main Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Discussion Questions

Belong: Icebreaker
Pick one or more to answer:

Now that Thanksgiving has passed, what is one thing you're especially grateful for this year?

How did you spend your Thanksgiving holiday? What was one highlight from your time with family or friends?

As you reflect on this past year, what is one unexpected blessing or answered prayer you're thankful for?

BELIEVE:

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12–22.

Based on verse 18, what does Paul instruct believers to do? Why do you think gratitude is such an important part of the Christian life?

"*Gratitude is a vehicle that makes us better, more Christ-like people. It is the mechanism that gives way to all the other important virtues. Want more peace? Work on gratitude. Want more patience? Work on gratitude. Want to be more compassionate? Work on gratitude.""* – *Pastor David Uth*

Pastor David shared that gratitude is a sign of spiritual maturity. Can you think of a time when practicing gratitude changed your perspective or attitude? How does gratitude ultimately help us become more like Christ?

Paul tells us to give thanks *in all circumstances*, not necessarily *for all circumstances*. Why is that distinction important? How can we remain grateful without ignoring or minimizing the difficulties we experience?

Read Romans 8:28.

How does knowing that God is working for our good, even when our circumstances are not good, change the way we respond to challenges? How does this truth help us trust God?

Become:

What does it look like to choose gratitude even when our circumstances haven't changed? Why can this be so difficult for us as believers?

What are some things that tend to distract us from being grateful? How can we become more aware of those distractions before they begin to shape our attitudes?

Gratitude is more than something we practice during Thanksgiving. What is one intentional way you can practice gratitude throughout the Christmas season and beyond?

Note for Group Leaders: As part of this Sunday's Thanksgiving message, we will also observe communion during our worship services. Pastor David reminds us that one of our greatest reasons for gratitude is the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection.

"*Communion – the word **Eucharist** has been used for this for many years. It simply means "give thanks."*

Closing:

- Spend time thanking God for His goodness, faithfulness, and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Pray that He would help each person cultivate a heart of gratitude, not just when life is going well, but in every circumstance. Ask God to help us trust that He is always at work, even when we cannot see or understand what He is doing.
- Remember, there are **NO GROUPS** meeting on the John Young Campus on **December 6, 2026**, due to the Christmas Story Presentation. We encourage all group members to attend.
- Groups may resume on **December 13th and December 20th**, but if your group decides to take the month off, please let our Groups team know.
- There is **only ONE worship service** on **December 27th at 10:00am**. Groups will NOT meet that Sunday.