

## Sermon-Based Small Group Preparation

For the week of November 20, 2011

### “Don’t Be a Turkey”

Luke 17:11-19

» Please look over these questions *before* your Small Group meeting «

#### Getting Started

- 1) As we approach Thanksgiving, what are things that you are the *most* thankful for?
- 2) What role does gratitude play in our relationships (i.e., with friends, family, God)?
- 3) Is thankfulness an attitude that some have and others lack? Explain.

#### Into the Bible

Read Luke 17:11-15

- <sup>11</sup> Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. (NIV)
- 4) Think about the day when these 10 men realized they had been afflicted with leprosy. What kind of thoughts do you think crossed their minds regarding the future of themselves and their family? Do you think there was any gratitude or hope in their initial response?
  - 5) Do we have a modern day leprosy?

- 6) What would it mean to be a spiritual leper? Do you think you could ever be considered one?
- 7) What did these lepers expect Jesus to do for them (v.13)? What was the first step in these men’s healing from leprosy? What does this indicate about our own awareness of need?

Read Luke 17:16-19

<sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup> Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” (NIV)

- 8) Why was Jesus disappointed about the other nine not returning to thank him (v. 18)? How might they have justified not returning to show gratitude?
  - 9) Reread verse 19. Thinking of your own life, have you ever felt especially blessed by remembering to express thankfulness? How has your gratitude, in turn, blessed others?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- <sup>16</sup> Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. (NIV)
- 10) How do we get to the point where thankfulness is the initial response for whatever life throws our way?
  - 11) According to this passage and other biblical passages, what other qualities enable us to be thankful in all circumstances?

