

## WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### *The Source of All Things*

Philippians 1.1-6

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*"<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."* **Philippians 1.1-6**

Of all the letters written by Paul, the book of Philippians was not only his last, it was also the most positive. In spite of the fact that he was imprisoned and facing certain death, his writing emphasizes his decision to choose gratitude over his circumstances.

Scripture calls us to a life of gratitude. Throughout both the Old and New Testaments we find verses which help us gain an understanding of why we should be thankful and how to have gratitude in certain circumstances. ***Discuss what each of the following verses teaches us about gratitude. How can you improve your own habits of choosing gratitude?***

[1 Thessalonians 5.16-18](#)

[Psalm 136](#)

[Psalm 30](#)

[Psalm 28](#)

[Job 1.21](#)

[2 Corinthians 2.14](#)

[Hebrews 12.28](#)

[1 Peter 1.6-7](#)

[James 1.17](#)

Paul chooses to give thanks for the people in his life, not his circumstances or possessions. As Thomas said, we would be the most thankful people on the planet if we based our gratitude on things and opportunities. ***"We live in culture in which everything is amazing and no one is happy." We do not choose – but are placed – with the people in our lives. One of the best things we can do is pay attention to those in our lives by showing gratitude. Think of some people you can focus gratitude on this week, letting them know why you are thankful for them.***

As we said farewell to our beloved Tom Brown in worship this Sunday, we did so with gratitude to God for Tom and his ministry here at Covenant. When we give thanks to God for the people and blessings in our lives, we are reminded that we can live in hope for the future. ***This week, what will help you more clearly focus on the source of all the goodness in your life? How might this change your interactions and pay attention in different ways?***

***Heavenly Father, thank you for the examples of gratitude throughout the Bible. Help us to realize how much we have been given, and to keep our eyes on You, the source of our every blessing. As we remember Your faithfulness to us, help us give thanks for those people in our lives this week. Amen.***