

Final Instructions

Home Discussion Guide- November 22, 2020

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-18

Choose 1 person in your group to read the passage aloud or take turns reading different verses. Then discuss the following questions as a group.

1. A year is a long time, and 2020 has felt longer than most for many of us! Try making a timeline from last Thanksgiving to this Thanksgiving, noting only the *good* things that have happened in your life. See if you feel differently about the year when you try to focus on finding things for which you are grateful.
2. Pastor Deb pointed out that every “next normal” is an opportunity to make a “better normal.” For many of us, the pandemic will be a pivoting point from one version of normal to the next. What are some things you would like to leave behind, and what are some new things to which you might be called?
3. Paul’s final instructions are pretty specific. Read them one by one and talk about which of them you find easy to follow, and which are more challenging.
4. Henri Frederic Amiel said that “Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts.” How have you seen gratitude shown in acts this year by your church, your community, your family, and yourself?
5. What do you think of when you hear the phrase “the kingdom of God?” What can we do together in the next normal to make our world look more like that?

KID QUESTION: A question to engage younger children!

Pastor Deb showed a picture of a turkey her nephew made for her. Try making one of your own by tracing your hand (you can have a grown-up help you) and coloring it like a turkey. For each of your five fingers write (your grown-up can help again!) something you are thankful for this year. Take a picture and send it to her, and she will hang it up at church! deborah@saalemstlouis.com

Ask your group to share ways you can be praying for one another. Choose one or more person(s) to close the group in prayer.