God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Seeing the Whole Picture

Speaker: Shane Condon

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Psalm 103:2 (ESV)**

  "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,"

  David calls his own soul to remember the Lord's goodness. In the surrounding psalm, that goodness includes forgiveness, compassion, and God's faithful care for frail people. Remembering his benefits means more than noticing pleasant circumstances; it means responding to who God is and what he has done. Shane applies this reminder to moments when one disappointment hides the good still present. Gratitude can help us see clearly while leaving room for grief, necessary change, and honest obedience.

Discussion Questions

- Shane asks why one bad experience can overshadow an otherwise good day. When has that happened to you recently? What else was true about that day?
- Donnie noticed that he was complaining about responsibilities attached to something he had prayed for. Where do a gift and a real burden exist together in your life? How could gratitude change the way you carry that responsibility?
- Think about Wanda's illustration of a black dot on a white page. Have you allowed one frustration to define how you see someone? How can you recognize that person's good qualities and still address a real problem?
- What do you repeatedly take in through news, conversations, or social media? How does it shape your attention? What adjustment could help you remain informed without becoming consumed?
- Shane reminds us to receive the parts of God's Word that challenge us. Where might you be avoiding an uncomfortable truth, and what would a faithful response look like?

Reflection Challenge

Choose one situation that has been occupying your thoughts. Over the next three days, look at it prayerfully from both sides: name the good you can thank God for and the difficulty that needs honest attention. You do not have to solve everything before you can begin.

Ask yourself:

- What has become the 'black dot' in this situation, and what am I overlooking around it?
- Which of God's benefits have I forgotten while focusing on my circumstances?
- Am I treating gratitude as a reason to avoid needed change, or treating a problem as if it cancels every good thing?

Try this:

- Read Psalm 103:2 slowly each day. Turn its reminder into a specific prayer of thanks for God's goodness.
- Make two short lists: 'Gifts to remember' and 'Matters needing attention.' Include three gifts and one concern without minimizing either list.
- Choose one constructive step for that concern: seek wise help, have an honest conversation, or change a habit. Make the step small enough to take this week.
- Thank someone for a good quality or kindness you have overlooked. Be specific about what you appreciate.

Remember

- One disappointment does not tell the whole story.
- God's goodness is deeper than whether today feels easy.
- A blessing can carry responsibilities that require patience and help.
- Gratitude and honesty belong together; neither requires denying pain.
- Seeing clearly includes receiving correction and taking necessary action.
- Recognize what is good, be honest about what is not, and ask God for wisdom.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your mercy and for the good we so easily overlook. When a disappointment fills our attention, remind us of your faithfulness. Help us appreciate the people and responsibilities you have placed in our lives. Give us courage to face what is wrong, humility to receive your Word, and wisdom to take the next faithful step. Teach us to bring you both our gratitude and our grief, trusting your care even when a situation remains unresolved.

In Jesus' name, Amen.