

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to engage in making disciples in your small group. They are based off of the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you take the time to listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. You can find the messages on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

Biblical Thankfulness- a passionate and informed expression of one's acknowledgement and appreciation of God's person, grace, blessings, and sovereign work in one's life and in the world.

1. Find yourself in the story: Which part of the story do you most resemble?
2. When you think of how you express thankfulness, how does it compare to Biblical thankfulness?
3. What is the relationship between joy and thankfulness?
4. Recognizing the value of the gift takes time. How can you grow in taking time to recount God's gifts?
5. How do I know if I'm after the gift or the Giver? How can we as believers take steps towards being continually thankful to the Giver?
6. Jeff mentioned two questions to discern whether you love the gifts or the Giver. 1) How do I respond when I have "everything"? 2) How do I respond when things "go wrong"? How would you answer those?
  - a. Are there things you are trying to use God to get? What are they? Why do you want them more than the God who provides them?
7. Jeff mentioned 3 aspects of a heartfelt expression of thankfulness. What were they? Which do you struggle with?
8. As believers, our new natural position should be one of thankfulness. What is your next right step toward growing in thankfulness this week? What makes it difficult for you to give thanks? Why?
9. Jeff recounted blessing after blessing in his life. Be prepared to share with the group an attribute/characteristic of God you are thankful for presently.