



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH - PART 2 OF 3

Series Title: Be Grateful: Having an Attitude of Gratitude

Lesson Title: The Ungrateful Prodigal Son – What Gratefulness Leads To

Key Scripture: Luke 15:11-24

Homework Instructions: This series will cover three weeks of lessons for the month of November (November 5th, 12th and 19th) and includes homework for each week.

You should complete the homework assignment for each week before class. However, you are welcome to go ahead and complete all homework assignments in advance if you would like to.

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, we'll learn about the power of being grateful through the parable of The Prodigal Son. If you have not done so already, read Luke 15: 11-24 so that you can have the context and perspective to best understand the Sunday School Lesson.

This week we will cover:

- 1. Gratefulness Leads to Blessings**
- 2. Gratefulness Leads to Honor**
- 3. Gratefulness Leads to Protection**

The Ungrateful Prodigal Son - What Gratefulness Leads To

1. Gratefulness Leads to Blessings

Through the parable Jesus taught in Luke 15: 11-24, we get a snapshot of the life of the Prodigal Son before he left home. He had a father that cared deeply for him, wealth, provision, servants, a position of authority and more, but the one thing he did not have was a grateful spirit. So, how could a man who seemed to have it all end up in such a low place of devastation? People of God, the answer lies in the attitude of his heart. Ungratefulness blinds you to all the blessings around you.

Take a good look at your life – you're a part of a great church with Senior Pastors who love you, pray for you and feed you with the Word of God. You are connected to a loving church family where you enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Since being at Harvest Life, look how God has delivered, healed and restored you, promoted you on your job, blessed your family, caused you to grow in Christ...and the list goes on and on!

The Prodigal Son too was in a blessed place, but because he was ungrateful, he was unable to see those blessings and that opened the door for the devil to come in with his lies to deceive him, make him feel unfulfilled and ultimately lead him out of the place where he was being blessed into a place of destruction.

Realize that you are blessed and be grateful for what God is doing in your life. Having an attitude of gratitude will help keep you strong in the Lord and grounded in the truth of His love when the enemy comes to lead you astray with his lies.

2. Gratefulness Leads to Honor

It is evident through this story that the father loved his son. Even though he cared for and provided for him, the son was not grateful and as result, did not honor his father. His lack of honor grew into blatant disrespect and his eventual downfall.

There are people in your life that God has designed to bring guidance and ultimate victory for your life. These individuals and God Himself should be honored.

See, when you have a true spirit of gratitude, it leads you to honor. We're grateful to Jesus Christ for who He is – King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We're thankful for Jesus sacrificing His life on the cross and for the countless ways that He blesses us daily. Our gratefulness leads us to worship and honor Him.

We're grateful for our Senior Pastors! Our gratefulness for the life system they have created at the Harvest Life Church, their teaching, their preaching, their love, their prayers and the list goes on – causes us to honor them.

Our gratefulness to our parents for their love, care, provision and more leads us to honor them. The Bible tells us that the 5th commandment is the first one with promise – it assures us that honoring our parents will give us long life.

We must be grateful so that we can honor.

3. Gratefulness Leads to Protection

When you have a grateful heart, you are so busy being thankful about what you have that you don't really focus on the things you don't have.

The Prodigal Son was blessed, but he wasn't grateful. His ingratitude left him vulnerable to the enemy's influence – and of course the enemy came right in distorting the truth, sowing seeds of entitlement, disrespect, dishonor, distrust and more.

The Prodigal Son's father had money, land, servants, livestock, and enough left over to leave a sizable inheritance to each of his sons. The Prodigal Son could have chosen to be content and thankful, but instead, like Adam and Eve, he allowed the enemy and his flesh to convince him that he could and should have more...and have it right now! His lack of gratefulness gave the enemy just enough room to entice him away from his father's covering and lure him out of his father's house. A spirit of gratefulness would have allowed him to see how blessed he was to be in his father's house, and protected from the perils that he faced after leaving – famine, hunger, financial ruin and slavery.

Are there any areas where you can be more grateful? In your ministry of service? In your marriage? In your workplace?

Understand that being grateful keeps you center stage of God's Will. And, in the center of God's will is protection.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH – PART 2 OF 3

The Ungrateful Prodigal Son - What Gratefulness Leads To

1. **Gratefulness Leads to Blessings. Describe how ungratefulness can blind you to all the blessings around you.**

2. **Name five things you are thankful for at Harvest Life Church and why.**

1. **What Thing:** And I'll give you the first one – Sunday School!

Why: I grow in my understanding of God's Word and deeper in my relationship with Him through each Sunday School Lesson because it's the best school in town!

2. **What Thing:** _____

Why: _____

3. **What Thing:** _____

Why: _____

4. **What Thing:** _____
Why: _____

5. **What Thing:** _____
Why: _____

3. **Gratefulness Leads to Honor. Describe in your own words how being grateful leads you to honor.**

4. **Gratefulness Leads to Protection. The Prodigal Son left his father's house/covering and became unprotected and vulnerable to all of the enemy's attacks. How is our spiritual covering, provided through our Senior Pastors and Harvest Life Church, protecting our lives when we listen and be obedient?**

