

MESSAGE NOTES



GRATITUDE

**How do you know if you are wandering away from God?
How do you keep from wandering away from God?**

1. Rehearse over and over what God has done for you.
2. Find your contentment in the presence of God rather than in your circumstances.
3. Give others permission to help you monitor your attitude.
4. Obey by faith the One who loved you enough to redeem you.

the one thing:

Gratitude defeats the idolatry of complaint

Miss something? All of these sermon notes will be available online Monday.

TAKING IT HOME NOTES FOR SMALL GROUP & PERSONAL STUDY

- 1 **KEEPING IT REAL**
Describe a family tradition that you observe during a typical Thanksgiving celebration in your home. Why do you continue to practice it? Would you rather put an end to it?
- 2 **LOOK AT THE BOOK**
Clarify the nuances and challenges of the following instructions regarding gratitude:
 - a. Ephesians 5:17-20
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - c. Colossians 3:15-17
- 3 Read Luke 17:11-19. Are you that guy? What did Jesus seem to expect? What is the message for you?
- 4 **THE NEXT STEP**
What will you do this week to cultivate expressions of gratitude during your celebration and in the weeks to come?

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Colossians 3:15-17 or 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
- Plan to participate in the upcoming *Community Bible Experience*.
- Develop a language for the expression of gratitude.
- It's never too late to begin a family Thanksgiving Journal.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT	2
MEN'S BREAKFAST	3
WAYPOINT: MATRIX	4
BETHLEHEM LIVE	10
BIG TREE CHRISTMAS PARTY	14
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 10:30, 4 & 6 PM	24
CHRISTMAS RECESS (OFFICE CLOSED)	26-30

JANUARY

NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	2
PARENT SUMMIT WITH GREG SPECK	14