



WOW!

WITH FRIENDS

Facilitation Guide



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Introduction to WOW! with Friends

“WOW!” is short for Women of Witness. “WOW! with Friends” is designed as a small group gathering, with the aim of hosting believing and/or pre-believing friends and families, for a time of fellowship. It also serves as an invitation to build and encourage each other as we come together. You may host these gatherings in your homes or any preferred conducive venue.

Our desire is to empower you to become an effective witness where you are, and this package has been designed to assist you to host your friends. It will include:

- **Online sermonette**
- **Facilitation guide**
- **E-Salvation guide for you to lead your friend(s) to salvation in Jesus Christ.**
- **E-Hosting Kit which includes a downloadable DIY Photo booth props, posters, and personalized e-invites.**

We will love to stay connected with you and to keep you and your small group in prayer, so do let us know where and when you will be hosting WOW! with Friends.

[WOW! With Friends Guest Access - Connect with us here!](#)

Password: hiswitness

Let us be inspired, equipped and empowered to become effective witnesses for Jesus!





Format of Facilitation Guide

1. Introduction & Focus points	Facilitator can introduce “WOW! with Friends” and share the focus points with the group.
2. Watch Video Sermonette	Watch the 10 - 15 min video sermonette.
3. Key Scripture & Elaboration	Use the notes and scripture references to elaborate on the focus points in the Facilitation Guide to help with the learning experience of the group. The facilitator is encouraged to share her personal stories and testimonies as well.
4. Discussion Questions	Engage the group in the discussion and have them share their views and personal experiences.
5. Challenge	Invite participants to a call of action in their daily lives and walk with God.
6. Closing & Prayer	Conclude by sharing key focus of sharing, pray for one another and close in prayer.



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WOW! with Friends

Speaker: Pastor Sandra Westerdahl

Sermonette: Thankfulness

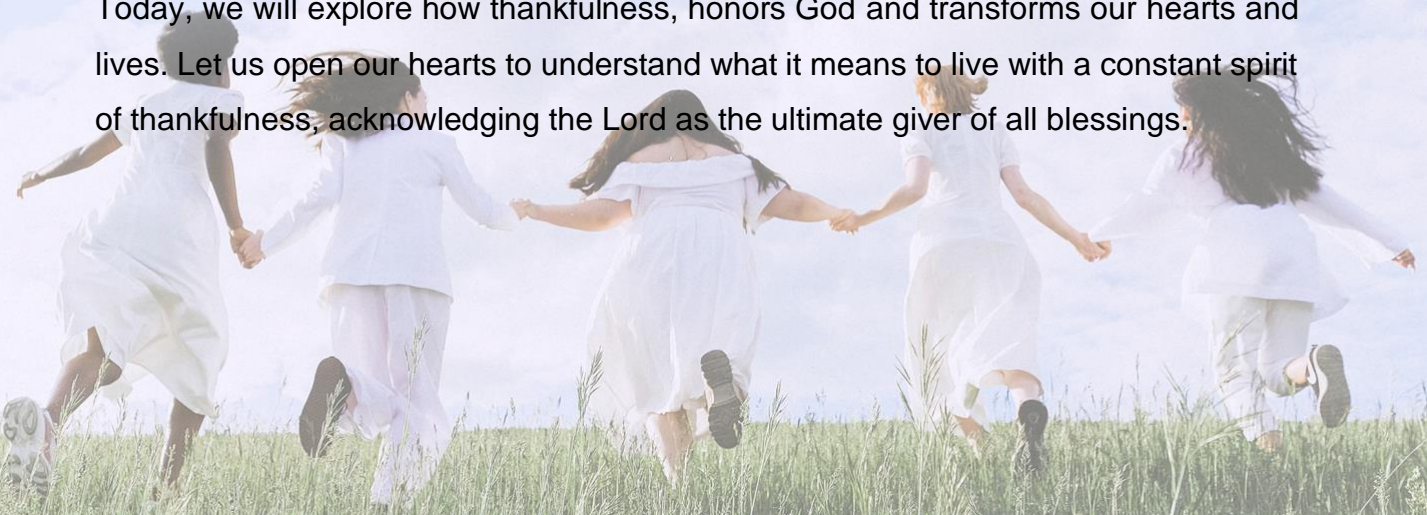
Introduction

In a world where gratitude is often fleeting and circumstantial, the Bible encourages us to foster a spirit of thankfulness toward God. Thankfulness is meant to be a lifestyle, a constant attitude of the heart. Colossians 2:7 speaks of being "overflowing with thankfulness," pointing to an ongoing disposition rather than isolated moments of gratitude. It is a discipline that believers are called to cultivate continually, regardless of feelings or circumstances. Unlike emotional gratitude of the world, biblical thankfulness is a deliberate choice, an expression of faith in God's goodness even during hardship.

Apostle Paul understood the meaning of true thanksgiving. Even in the midst of great adversity, he was always giving thanks in everything! Thanksgiving was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation.

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. - Colossians 3:15-17

Today, we will explore how thankfulness, honors God and transforms our hearts and lives. Let us open our hearts to understand what it means to live with a constant spirit of thankfulness, acknowledging the Lord as the ultimate giver of all blessings.



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Focus Points

1. Thankfulness guards our hearts
2. In everything give thanks
3. The power of a thankful heart

[Watch Video Sermonette](#)

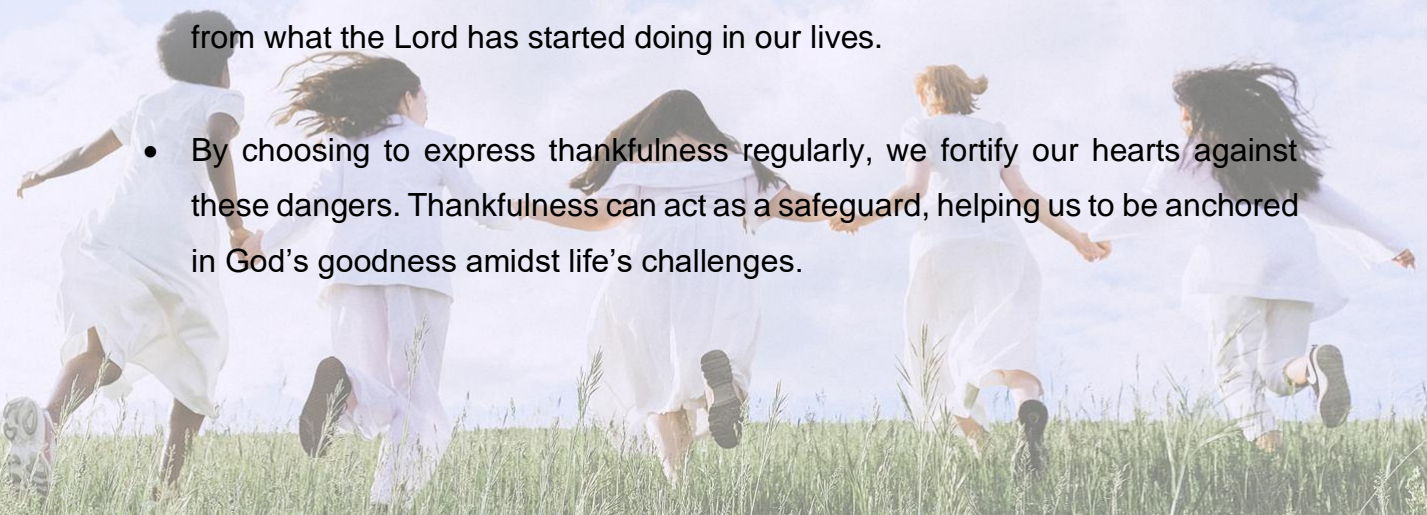
[Click here to watch video sermonette](#)





Key Scripture & Elaboration

- In 2 Timothy 3:1-2, the Apostle Paul provides a sobering description of the moral and spiritual conditions that will characterize people in the last days. He emphasizes the perilous nature of these times, noting that people will be "lovers of themselves," "lovers of money," "boasters," "proud," "blasphemers," "disobedient to parents," and "unthankful." The inclusion of ingratitude in this list is particularly significant, as it reveals how a lack of thankfulness can lead to a myriad of negative attitudes and behaviors.
- Thankfulness plays a crucial role in guarding our hearts and minds. When we cultivate a spirit of gratitude, we actively acknowledge the blessings which we receive from God, shifting our focus away from self-centered desires and materialism.
- This recognition fosters humility, as it reminds us to be dependent on God and His goodness. Our blessings and successes are not solely products of our own efforts or merits but are gifts from God.
- In Romans 1:21, Paul further underscores the dangers of ingratitude: *"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened."* This passage illustrates that ingratitude can lead to a downward spiral, affecting our understanding of God and ourselves.
- If we are not careful, selfishness and complaining can creep in. They can even start to affect our families and the people around us and take our focus away from what the Lord has started doing in our lives.
- By choosing to express thankfulness regularly, we fortify our hearts against these dangers. Thankfulness can act as a safeguard, helping us to be anchored in God's goodness amidst life's challenges.





- *13 And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”
14 So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” 19 And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.” - Luke 17:13-17 (NKJV)*
- The passage tells us that ten lepers called out to Jesus for healing. All of them had faith, obeyed and followed His commands, and all were restored to health. However, only one returned to express gratitude. Jesus told the thankful leper, *“Rise and go; your faith has made you well,”*.
- The phrase *“made you well”* translates to ‘sozo’ in Greek, it carries a much deeper meaning than simple physical healing. He received true healing that goes beyond the physical to include salvation and complete reconciliation with God.
- The remaining nine, caught up in their own lives and concerns, showed no thankfulness, revealing a common spirit of ingratitude.
- An ungrateful heart is one that grows cold toward God and becomes indifferent to His mercy, forgetting our dependence on Him for all things.



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- The scriptures repeatedly commands thankfulness. Psalms 147:7 encourages us to sing to the Lord with thanksgiving, and Colossians 3:15 tells us to be thankful. A heart filled with gratitude reflects a joyous Christian life, naturally overflowing from a close relationship with God.
- *⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
Sing praises on the harp to our God,
- Psalm 147:7 (NKJV)*
- *¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
- Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)*
- Apostle Paul declared in Philippians 4:12, *“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want”.*
- A spirit of thankfulness makes all the difference!
- *“A spirit of thankfulness is one of the most distinctive marks of a Christian whose heart is attuned to the Lord. Thank God in the midst of trials and every persecution.” – Billy Graham*



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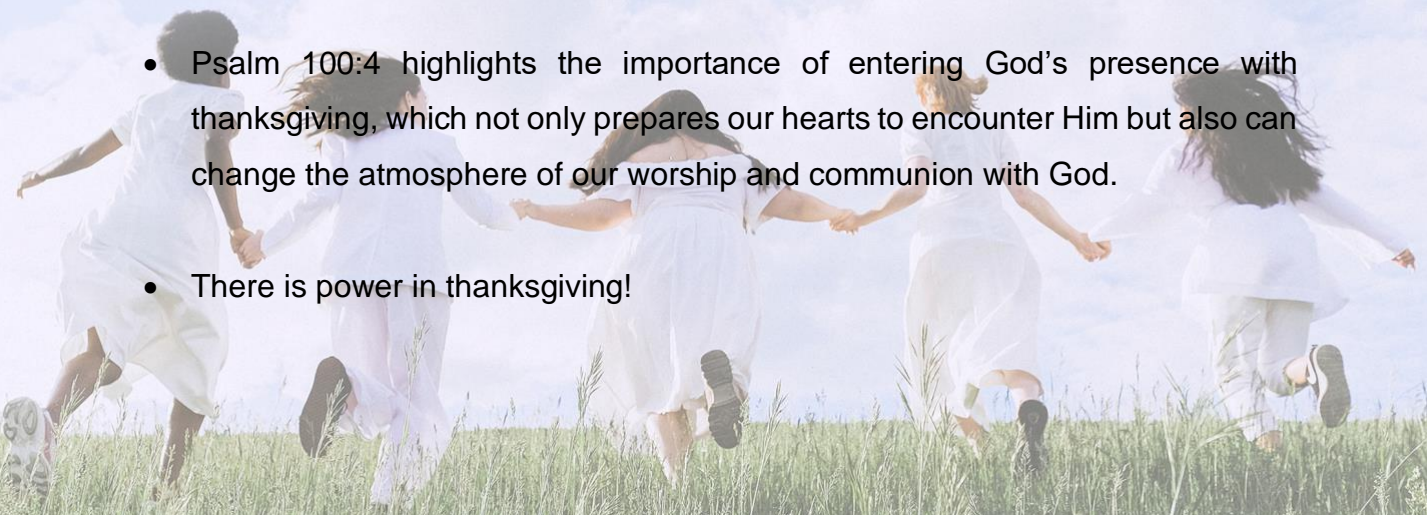


- Next, Paul instructs believers to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks". Importantly, he emphasizes giving thanks in everything rather than for everything, highlighting an attitude of gratitude despite circumstances.
- *¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)*
- Three Essential Ingredients:
 - **Rejoice:** This is an active choice to celebrate God's goodness, even in difficult times. Joy is not dependent on our circumstances but rooted in our relationship with God.
 - **Pray:** Continuous prayer builds a deeper relationship with God and helps maintain a thankful heart. It allows us to express our concerns and needs while acknowledging God's sovereignty.
 - **Give Thanks:** Thankfulness should be a defining trait for God's people. We can express gratitude for His character during trials, thank Him for being our healer, comforter, and refuge. This shifts our focus from our problems to the attributes of God.
- In times of great challenge and adversity, God will establish believers whose hearts will remain steadfast in gratitude. Let us grow through thankfulness and shine for Jesus in the darkest moments!





- The power of a thankful heart is a recurring theme throughout the Bible, often appearing in contexts where gratitude precedes significant events or miracles.
- This principle highlights how a posture of thankfulness can open the door to God's intervention in our lives.
- Examples of Thankfulness Preceding Miracles
- **Jesus at the Last Supper (Luke 22:17):**
 - Before sharing the Last Supper, Jesus gives thanks for the cup. This act of gratitude underscores the importance of recognizing God's provision, even in the face of impending suffering. Jesus models being thankful as a way to acknowledge God's sovereignty over every situation.
- **Feeding the 5,000 (Mark 6:41):**
 - Prior to performing the miracle of feeding the multitude, Jesus takes the loaves and fish, looks up to heaven, and gives thanks. In giving thanks, Jesus demonstrates faith in God's provision.
- **Raising Lazarus (John 11:41):**
 - Before calling Lazarus out of the tomb, Jesus thanks God for hearing Him, acknowledging God's presence and power can facilitate miracles.
- *"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!" - Psalm 100:4 (NKJV)*
- Psalm 100:4 highlights the importance of entering God's presence with thanksgiving, which not only prepares our hearts to encounter Him but also can change the atmosphere of our worship and communion with God.
- There is power in thanksgiving!



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Discussion Questions

1. How does thankfulness influence your perspective on challenges in life?
2. Reflect on Psalm 100:4. How can you apply the principle of entering His gates with thanksgiving in your spiritual walk?

Challenge

Develop a habit of recognizing God's hand in your life, dedicate a portion of your prayer time each day specifically to thanking God for:

- Your salvation in Jesus Christ
- His presence and power in your life
- Blessings that He gives you
- People in your life
- His goodness in the midst of trials

Closing

Embracing thankfulness as a core aspect of our lives, will help us reflect God's heart and shine His light in a world that desperately needs it. May we carry a spirit of thankfulness into our everyday lives, sharing it generously with others and honoring God in all that we do. Let us commit to recognizing and expressing our gratitude, not only during joyful moments but also through challenges.

Prayer

1. Pray for God to cultivate a heart of thanksgiving, helping us to see the good even in difficult situations.
2. Thank God for the growth you have experienced in your faith journey. Ask Him to continue guiding you in your walk. (Philippians 1:6)

