



# After Giving Thanks

John 12:1-3

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley



Village Meeting Week of:

November 26, 2018

Sermon Date:

November 25, 2018

CURRICULUM  
GUIDE



# Notes for Facilitators:

Please begin and end each Village Discussion with prayer. The curriculum guide contains a brief synopsis of the sermon for the week. As well, below are discussion questions and activities that you may use for your Village weekly meeting. This guide is meant to be a resource for the discussion. You may choose to use questions or activities, or a combination of both. While you have flexibility to choose the questions and activities that most resonate with your group, please always keep in mind the aim for the discussion: to lead Village participants into deeper relationship with the Lord through discussion of the sermon, and to provide for deep connection among members of the group. Anticipated time of meeting is 60-75 minutes.







## Sermon Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Wesley suggests that Thanksgiving should not only be relegated to a day to give thanks, but rather a lifestyle of thanksgiving. After the giving of thanks, believers ought to render the living of thanks. Pastor Wesley offers three ways in which we could render to God a life of Thanksgiving.

## Key Points

### 1. SHARE your TALENTS

- The best gift I can give God is using the gifts God gave me.
- The Lord shouldn't have to rent your talent or lease your skill set.
- Whatever you do well in the world, you ought to do better in the Kingdom.

### 2. SACRIFICE your TREASURE

- Whenever you are compelled to release your treasure, there's a Judas voice that tries to contradict.
- There are other voices (and even your own) that can seek to influence you to not sacrifice your treasure to the Lord.
- Don't ever let someone talk you out of doing what the Lord has said to do.
- There is a price associated with not doing what the Lord instructed you to do in that season.

### 3. SURRENDER your TIME

- We must deliberately/consciously make the time to worship and communicate with the Lord, which develops intimacy and a stronger relationship.



# Getting To Know You Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley referenced the book entitled "The 5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman, and suggested that God speaks all 5 love languages - Receiving Gifts; Quality Time; Words of Affirmation; Acts of Service; Physical Touch. What is/are your love language(s)?
2. What is your favorite memory of Thanksgiving Day 2018?

# Into The Bible Questions:

1. Let's read Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV. In what ways can we consider this verse along with Sermon Point #2 - "Sacrifice your Treasure"? Describe a time when you were thinking about sacrificially giving and were worried about not having the things that you need and/or want. How can we use this verse to make Sermon Point #2 a serious action item in our lives?
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 states, " Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Does our thanksgiving "fervor" rise and fall with our change in circumstances? How do we maintain our thanksgiving when things have gone "south"?

# Life Application Questions:

1. When we spend time with the Lord we begin to think, look, and act more like God. Can you list ways that you believe you "look like God"? And in what ways would you like to be transformed into His image more?
2. When you set aside time to spend with God, what are the competing priorities? What is your response when you feel pulled away from devotional time with the Lord? "Surrender your time" versus "Give your time"...Is there a difference?
3. After the giving of thanks should come the "living of thanks." What are some indicators that one is "living thanks?"





## "Can I Push It?"

1. Nobody had to ask Martha to serve. Martha sees there's a need and does what needs to be done. Martha didn't have to get paid to do it. In what ways do we expect to be rewarded for using the gifts God gave you?
2. Pair members of the group to discuss the following:
  - a. When have you experienced inner resistance to the giving of something you value (time, money, relationships, career, school)?
  - b. What helps you to be obedient to what God calls you to do?

## Activity:

Facilitator will post three large pages of flip chart or poster paper, and at the top of each place a caption, "Service", "Treasure", "Time". Facilitator will remind the group of the key points of this sermon, "When we acknowledge how good God has been to us, John 12:1-3 offers three ways we may respond, as listed on each of the posted pages."

Give each group member a small pad of Post-It notes (available affordably at Dollar Stores or Walmart). Facilitator will instruct the group, "On each Post-It, write one way to honor God with either service, treasure or time. Then go to the sheet with that caption and stick on each of your notes. Each person is asked to post at least 3 notes on each sheet." Give group members 5 minutes to walk around and post their ideas on the sheets.

Once the posts are complete, allow the group 3 minutes to walk around and view all the posts. Facilitator will then bring the group together for a brief discussion of one question, "What new ideas did you get about ways you may use your talents, treasure, or time to honor God?"





## Spirit Work:

As a follow up to the activity, do an in-depth inventory of your personal gifts and talents. Choose one that you will use to serve others this week and beyond.