

Genesis 21:1-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Matthew 22:29-33

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### Notes

1. Paul's encouragement is for the people of God is to remember their true identity.
2. Take heart. God is faithful and will finish what he has started.
3. Gospel work is a partnership. We are never meant to go it alone.
4. How does "rejoicing, always" look in midst of turmoil?
5. We are called to be a beautiful community! To celebrate, always.

What are my biggest fears and anxieties that I should be praying more about?

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What Kingdom things do I reflect on that are honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent or praiseworthy?

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Partnering Together. We need each other. Commit to pray for, check in on and look after one person for the next 4 months.

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**Memory Verse:** "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!"  
Philippians 4:4

**Next Week's Verses:** Genesis 21:8-21; Galatians 4:21-26; Luke 11:9-10

### Talk Topics

Tell about the best gift you ever received from another person. How did you react? How does that compare with the way you react to God's gifts?

What are the top five things you're thankful for?

When have you responded to a gift from God with true gratitude?

In what ways do you see room for improvement in the way you express thanks to God?

### Digging Deeper

#### Daily Challenges

Choose one or more to do this week.

- Write God a thank-you note. Think about each blessing God's given you, especially those you've taken for granted. Then take some time to thank God in prayer as well.
- Change up your prayers this week. Rather than focusing on the needs of yourself or others, spend time worshipping God and appreciating Him for who He is. It'll make your "regular prayers" that much more meaningful.
- Cut up 14 pieces of paper and write a gift from God on each one. Make an envelope from wrapping paper and put your "gifts" inside. The next time you're struggling to feel thankful, pull a slip out of your gift envelope and thank God for that gift. Then replace the paper with something new you can be thankful for.

#### Further Study and Discussion throughout the week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional Biblical insights about your heart.

**Monday**—1 Thessalonians 5:16

What circumstances rob you of your joy? How can you be joyful and thankful even when things aren't going your way?

**Tuesday**—Psalm 100

What's the difference between praise and thanksgiving? In what ways do they overlap? How can you be more openly thankful to God?

**Wednesday**—Romans 4:16-22

Circumstances didn't change Abraham's faith. How have your experiences negatively impacted your faith or appreciation for God?

**Thursday**—Colossians 3:15-17

What does it mean for you to let peace rule in your heart? How could that promote more thankfulness?

**Friday**—James 1:17

What are some good and perfect gifts God has given you? How do you know they're from God?

**Saturday**—Psalm 19:7-11

What makes you thankful for God's Word? How can God's Word inspire you to be more thankful?

