Study Guide: 11-30–25 GrateFull - Living, Giving, Growing

Overview
God has shown us extravagant, unearned generosity through salvation, grace, and daily blessings. Gratitude is our natural response, but true gratitude doesn't stop at feelings or words—it is expressed in action. This message teaches that genuine gratitude to God shows up in three ongoing ways: how we LIVE, how we GIVE, and how we GROW. When we live, give, and grow in response to God's generosity, we keep the chain reaction of gratitude moving.

Key Verse: Colossians 2:6-7
"…continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him… Then your faith will grow strong… and you will overflow with gratefulness."

Main Points
1. Gratitude is expressed in the way you LIVE
    - Others should be able to watch your life and see that you are grateful to God.
    - Life is a battle: we have "confessing Jesus" moments and "denying Jesus" moments (like Peter).
    - Gratitude isn't only in the victories; it's in refusing to quit the fight of faith, getting back up, and staying in the war against sin and darkness. Key Scriptures: Prov 24:16; Gal 5:17; Col 3:5; 1 Tim 6:12
2. Gratitude is expressed in the way you GIVE
    - Everything we have was first given to us by God ("Freely you have received…").
    - Grateful people become generous people because gratitude opens our eyes to God's generous character and creates a hunger to be like Him.
    - Generosity is far more than money—it's time, talent, wisdom, love, etc. Key Scriptures: Matt 10:8; Luke 6:40; 1 John 2:6; Psalm 30
3. Gratitude is expressed in the way you GROW
    - God is more concerned with the process (growth) than instant fruit.
    - The process includes darkness (being hidden), death to self, pruning, waiting, but it always leads to greater fruit for others and deeper roots for us.
    - Gratitude embraces the process instead of resenting it. Key Scriptures: 1 Timothy 4:12-15; Colossians 2:6-7

Reflection Questions
1. When someone watches your daily life (attitudes, reactions, choices), would they conclude you are deeply grateful to God? Why or why not?
2. Where do you currently see the "confessing vs. denying" tension in your life? How does knowing gratitude is shown in "staying in the fight" encourage you?
3. On a scale of 1-10, how easy is it for you to receive generosity without feeling the need to "pay it back"? How does that affect your ability to give freely?
4. Think of a time you experienced unexpected generosity. Did it make you want to be more generous to others?
5. Are you more focused on the fruit (results) or the process (growth) right now? Where are you tempted to resent the process God has you in?
6. Which of the three areas (Living / Giving / Growing) feels strongest in your life right now? Which feels weakest?

Application (Choose 1-2 this week)

- LIVING: Identify one recurring “denying” moment this week. When it happens, immediately pray, get back up, and take one step to “confess Jesus” in that same situation.
- GIVING: Do one anonymous act of generosity (time, money, encouragement, etc.) simply because God has been generous to you.
- GROWING: Commit to one new growth step in January (Mini-Meets, DGroup, Alpha, serving, consistent Bible reading, etc.). Start preparing now.
- Daily Practice: Each morning this week pray: “Lord, today help me express my gratitude by how I live, give, and grow.”

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Icebreaker: What’s one small thing this week (green light, cup of coffee, etc.) that made you say “Thank you, Lord”?
2. Which of the three expressions of gratitude (live/give/grow) comes most naturally to you? Which is hardest?
3. Share a time you saw someone’s gratitude visibly shown in how they lived, gave, or grew. What stood out?
4. The speaker said, “You can’t stop a grateful person from giving.” Do you agree? Why do grateful people give so freely?
5. Read Colossians 2:6-7 together. How does rooting ourselves in Christ naturally produce overflowing gratefulness?
6. What’s one practical step you sense God asking you to take this week in living, giving, or growing as an expression of gratitude?
7. Close in prayer, thanking God specifically for His generosity and asking Him to help each person live, give, and grow out of gratitude this week.