

Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: Grateful for...

It has been a wild year, yet God has provided and made an impact through us in powerful ways. So let's celebrate! For all that we have been through, and for all the ways we have seen God's glory and power at work, we give thanks. Join us in a teaching series on gratitude and generosity, as we look back on how God has provided, give thanks for how God has worked through us, and look to the future with hope!

We are grateful for YOU! We are grateful for REVOLUTION! We are grateful to GOD!

Message description:

We are all called to be ministers of the gospel, to be the revolution, and to share God's love wherever we are. This is the power of *koinonia*, that as we partner together to offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, we share in the work of God and the gospel of grace together. In a backbiting and divisive world, the church needs to be a light and city on the hill that sets an example for how to love one another and our neighbor. One of the ways we seek to reveal the love of God through teaching and serving is through our ministries for children and youth. Because of your partnership, we are nurturing the faith of our young people and making a difference through the Spirit in ways we may never fully see. Thank you for the ways you love each other well, especially our young people!

Key Scripture

Philippians 1:1-11

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. What are you grateful for this week?
2. What do you think the world needs to see from the Church right now?
3. How do you see that we, as Revolution Church, have "shared in the gospel" through our children and youth ministries this year?
4. How are you playing your part to fulfill our baptismal vows to our children and youth and supporting their faith development? Do you know what our baptismal covenant says? [If not, check it out below!]
5. Where do you sense God calling you to be generous with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in the new year?

Our Baptismal Covenant

For the full liturgy, click here: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/book-of-worship/the-baptismal-covenant-i>

In the United Methodist Church, we covenant together to love and support one another whenever someone joins our church through baptism, profession of faith, or transfer of membership. This is one way we seek to be a family united in Christ together and “to spur one another one toward love and good deeds.” Or, as we saw in week 1 of this series, to be members of the communion of saints, running our race toward Jesus together.

We are unique in that we extend the sacrament of baptism to infants and children. What makes this proclamation of the prevenient grace of God so powerful is that we promise to help nurture the faith of this young person until the time they can profess their faith in Jesus Christ themselves (what we call Confirmation). That means each member of our church family has a role to play in nurturing and impacting the young people of our church.

Questions asked of the community of faith:

Will you nurture these children (persons) in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Questions for reflection:

- What do you find powerful about these words?
- What do these words mean to you?
- Asked again, how are you playing your part to fulfill our baptismal vows to our children and youth and their faith development?
- Where do you sense God calling you to step out in faith to mentor, bless, serve, or lead the young people of our family?

Commitment and accountability

As part of this series, we are asking for commitments to support the ministries and mission of our church in the new year. If you didn't get your stewardship packet in the mail, consider picking up a commitment card [below] at church.

- How are you planning to serve and give of yourself this year?
- How can we help you stay accountable to your commitment?
- Do you see opportunities for your house group to serve to support one of these areas in 2024?

I want to join the Revolution!

Name(s): _____ Email: _____

My Commitment for 2024:

I commit to joining Jesus in the revolution of transforming lives through teaching and serving through Revolution Church by offering my:

PRAYERS for church, staff, and mission: _____

PRESENCE through worship, small group, and events: _____

SERVICE with A/V team, Greeting/Hospitality, RevKids, Grace Kids, or other: _____

GIFTS, one time in the amount of: _____

GIFTS, recurring in the amount of: _____ (Circle one) Weekly or Monthly

WITNESS of love for my neighbors: _____

Please return this completed card by November 26!

Close in prayer:

Pray together. Create intentional time and space to offer prayers for one another, that we might share in the comfort of Christ together and experience the Spirit's presence.

Consider the simple acronym of ACTS to guide your time of prayer together:

- A- Adoration.** *Share praise reports or reasons to praise God. (Reading a psalm together can help)*
- C- Confession.** *Leave space to pray silently or individually to confess sins.*
- T- Thanksgiving.** *Share something in the group that you are thankful for this week.*
- S- Supplication, or petition.** *Share concerns and prayer requests you have.*