

## Conversation Starters

- What are you most grateful for?
- Can you think of a time when someone else’s generosity has touched your life?

## Discuss

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

This parable relays an important and powerful dynamic for the life of a Christ-follower: we are expected to reflect the love, grace and generosity we have received from God.

- Do you struggle more with showing grace, or generosity?
- Why do you think it can be such a struggle, at times, to be gracious and generous?

Generosity and gratitude are a response to Christ’s love.

- In what ways does Christ’s love compel you personally to show your gratitude?

In Luke 17:11-19, we read of the ten lepers. They were all healed, yet only one returned to show his gratitude. The one that returned was both “healed and saved.” If you have accepted Christ as forgiver and leader of your life, then you have received a miraculous healing and saving as well.

Much like the lepers, many people stumble through life numb and wounded, oblivious to the pain in need of attention. Only once their eyes are opened to God’s truth do their hearts of stone turn to flesh.

- Is there a specific need or cause that you feel drawn to?
- What are you doing to answer that call?

*“You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18, NIV).*

Everything you have, even your next breath, is a gift from God. In the darkest moments of your journey when you feel far beyond the reach of God, He is sustaining you, granting you life and offering you peace.

- Do you find it easy in the monotony of your daily routine to forget that God’s hand holds your life together, and that everything you have is a gift from Him?
- What could you do to keep this truth at the forefront of your mind as you go through your day?
- If throughout the day you reflected on the gracious generosity that God has shown you, how might it affect the way you interact with others?
- When you hit hard times, do you lose sight of the goodness of God?

Mabel spent nearly twenty-five years bedridden, blind and alone until Tom befriended her. When Tom asked what she thought of all that time, she replied, “I think about my Jesus.” Tom asked what she thought about Jesus and she said, “I think about how good he’s been to me. He’s been awfully good to me in my life...”

- How does hearing Mabel’s story make you feel about your relationship with Christ?
- Consider what it would be like to be in her place. Could you be not only content with Christ in that situation, but happy that he had been so good to you?

*“Jesus is all the world to me,  
My life, my joy, my all.  
He is my strength from day to day,  
Without him I would fall.  
When I am sad, to him I go,  
No other can cheer me so.  
When I am sad he makes me glad.  
He is my friend.”*

## **Next Steps**

- What steps do you need to take to help you focus on being grateful for what God has blessed you with?
- Would you consider taking a break from social media, and replacing that time with prayer and reading the Bible?
- A simple way to show our gratitude to God is to give Him the worship He deserves. Mabel sang about how Jesus was her life, her joy, her all. As awkward as it may be for you, will you take the time this week to sing praise to God?

## **Pray**

Father, thank you for being so good to us, for offering us grace when we deserve justice. Please, help us to see that every breath we breathe is a gift from you. Draw us close that we may know you deeply and love you truly.