

Lesson 5: Test and Give Thanks

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: (Help people discover these points – if the principles are not emerging in group discussion, ask questions to bring these out – do not “lecture” to them.)

- **Test and give thanks** – Give thanks frequently during the prayer time. Test that all the person hears is consistent with Scripture.

1) **Pray.** Open with prayer. Spend time in small group prayer as appropriate during the session.

2) **Review** the Basic Principles and accompanying gestures covered so far and **discuss** how understanding and applying these is going.

Basic Principles

- **Live in your heritage** – Reclaim it if you’ve been robbed. 1 Peter 1:3-9
- **Come to Jesus** – Bring Him your stuck places. Ps 62:5-8
- **3-way prayer** – The facilitator does most of the verbal prayer. The person being prayed for focuses on listening to God and responding. Others intercede quietly. Matt 18:18-20
- **Hearing God** – God speaks directly to the person being prayed for at their point of need. Spend time silently listening for His voice. John 10:27

3) **Review** the previous lesson.

➤ Individually

- Write down or otherwise note your **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson.

➤ Small Groups: If your large group is more than 7 people you may want to split into small groups.

- Review the previous lesson’s **memory verse(s)**.
- Share with one another your **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson, then discuss and **agree on** your group’s top 3 principles.
- **Pray** together. Ask that each person learn and apply Wholeness Prayer principles.

➤ Large group

- Share your group’s **top 3 principles** from the previous lesson.
- Write responses (in words or pictures) on a whiteboard or flipchart, combining similar responses.

4) **Discovery Bible Study (DBS): 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (give thanks frequently, test that all is consistent with Scripture)**

Ask 2-3 people to read the verses out loud, from varying translations when possible.

Alternatively, listen to the verses being read aloud on an audio device 2-3 times. Then ask someone to retell the passage, as completely as possible, in their own words. Ask the group to contribute anything missed. Fill in gaps as needed.

Pray as a group and ask God to speak through His word. Spend time listening silently. Then discuss the following questions. Help everyone participate. If you have more than 6-7 people, first split into small groups.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about people who follow Jesus?
- Why is it important examine everything carefully?

- What might it look like to apply these principles when praying together with others?
- How are you already applying the principles in this passage? How would you like to grow in applying these principles? (Encourage people to consider possible applications, then choose one or two clear, specific and realistic personal applications.)
- What does God want you to do to apply this?
- Who will you tell?
- Who will you share this lesson with?
- What key principles will your group share with the large group?

5) Follow-up Activities.

- **Share** key principles, drawings and motions with the large group. Ask each small group to share one key principle. Write these (in words or pictures) on a large paper or whiteboard. Continue until you have all the main points in the lesson.
- **Gesture:** Decide together on a gesture or hand motion for this lesson. Then ask all participants to stand up and do the gesture together. Then practice together all the gestures in order for the basic principles covered so far in this module.
- **Spend time** rejoicing and giving thanks to God as a group. Share with one another things that help you to do this. Brainstorm ways to overcome challenges. Pray for one another.
- **Clarify** the next meeting time and any pre-work to be completed beforehand.
- **Pre-work** for next lesson:
 - **Memorize:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (And review previous verses.)
 - **Pray:** Read and meditate on John 8:12, 31-32.
 - **Share:** Share with others what you are learning.
 - **Practice:** Make a (mental or written) list of things you're thankful for. Keep adding to it each day. Spend at least 5 minutes each day thanking God and rejoicing.

6) Pray a closing prayer. Commit to pray for one another between training times.

Note: You may also want to incorporate a time of sharing and prayer – for blessings and challenges.