

4. Some people can express in words as eloquently as David's words of thanksgiving and praise; others, not so much. Sometimes we fail in thanksgiving because we try to be something we're not. Describe how the following people expressed thanksgiving.

Luke 7:36-39

Luke 19:5-8

Luke 8:30-33, 38-39

5. What are some different ways that people can express their gratitude if they are not overly-expressive?
6. What's your way? Is there someone you need to speak to, do something special for, or in your own way express your thanks to?

## Thanks On Display Daniel 2:1-23

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

William Arthur Ward

God's plan is not to use gratefulness to make us happier; we are happier because in gratefulness, we are aligned with God's plan.

## An Impossible Crisis

Impossible situations often lead to lives of panic; they should lead to lives of trust.

Daniel's response showed wisdom and tact; not bitterness and rudeness.

## Praise and Thanksgiving – a vital connection

Mature thanksgiving is grounded in a foundation of praise.

Daniel's thanksgiving took root in

- God's wisdom through his plans
- God's power to work
- God's willingness to intervene
- God's resources that he gives
- God's clarification of deep truth

A grateful heart toward God sees gracious actions in others.

Is there anything in today's study that has moved you toward expressing thanks to God for something that has happened in your life recently? Is there anyone in your life that is owed a special note of thanks? Why not jot it down and take some action this week to follow through with expressed thankfulness.

### Getting to know you

Take a few moments to write down five or six reasons why people are not more grateful or do not express the gratefulness they feel.

### Digging deeper in the Word and in life

As believers, we're reminded that God is good. It is he who is the source of goodness.

1. Read Psalm 107 1-3. What are the specific commands that are listed in those verses?
2. New sections start in verses 4, 10, 17, 23, and 33. Read each of those verses and see if any of them feel like something you experienced in a figurative sense at one time or another. Choose one of those situations and describe what God did to deliver them.
3. Read Psalm 107:43. What is our responsibility as God delivers us from life's hard times? How might you do that?