

An attitude of gratitude (1): thankfulness for one another. Bible passage: 1 Thess. 1:1-10

<p>Welcome <i>(ice-breaker)</i></p>	<p>How would you feel about someone in your neighbourhood winning the lottery? Pleased for them/ jealous/ resentful/ something else?</p>
<p>Worship ideas</p>	<p>Suggested songs: - choose songs which dwell on thankfulness for all God's gifts, esp. for our fellowship in faith (e.g. Songs of Fellowship 124 Give thanks 269 I will give thanks 586 We really want to thank you, Lord 571 We are your people 1015 Thank you for saving me (NB: 20 files of 'newer' songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</p>
<p>Word (refs.↓)</p>	<p><i>Sunday's 9am sermon is available to download from www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on Downloads tab)</i></p>
<p><u>Read</u> 1 Thess. 1:1-10</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thanks to God for the church of the Thessalonians (vv.1-3) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. What about the Thessalonians' faith do Paul and his companions thank God for? (V.3). B. Note the regularity and comprehensiveness of their thanks. How does this compare with your own thanksgiving for your fellow Christians? C. Is it a good discipline to pray for and thank God for one another in the local church? 2. Thanks to the Thessalonians for their witness and steadfastness in faith (vv.4-9a) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Here Paul tells his readers how their faithful acts have been a great witness to the other churches in the region. By listing their 'achievements' he is indirectly thanking them for these. What can we learn as a church from his example? B. Note Paul thanks them for what they have done (vv.6-7) but also reminds them of (and so indirectly thanks them for) who they are in God (vv.4-6). Who are the people in our church whom you could thank this week for all they do? And who are those whom you could bless by thanking them for who they are (.e. their character)? 3. Encouragement for the Thessalonians in their faith and example (vv.4-5, 9a-10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. How does Paul encourage his readers in assurance of their faith - i.e. the certainty of their salvation (vv.4-5)? Would you feel encouraged by such words? How could you do the something similar for others today? B. What about the Thessalonians' faith has been a witness to the other churches in the region (see vv.9b-10)? Note especially the impact of their collective conversion from pagan worship (v.9b). How important is it to you to receive reassurance that you are living a life pleasing to God? How could you reassure others in the church family of the same?
<p>Witness</p>	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <p>Pray for one another, that you may be a mutually-encouraging group, committed to praying for and thanking a god for one another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about how you as an individual, or as a group, or we as a church, could do more to be known as those characterised by an 'attitude of gratitude' for one another - and so be more effective witnesses. • Start to plan a 'social' later this half-term to which you can invite those in your group's circle of friends/ family who are not yet Christians.