

GREATER THAN GRATEFUL

INTRODUCTION

Gratitude is definitely more than an attitude. While we all have much for which to be grateful, gratitude doesn't always fill our hearts. Gratitude is a good goal, but not the *best* goal. So what is greater than gratitude? Jesus tells us in a parable he told to his disciples.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We take things for granted all of the time. Pause for a minute and think about one thing you often take for granted. What is it?
2. Having a posture of gratitude is great. When did you last experience gratitude? Was it a permanent attitude or a fleeting feeling?
3. When we have more than others, it's easy to be grateful. When we have less, we have a tendency to be envious. Is comparing ourselves to others the best way to develop a sense of gratitude? How can you maintain an attitude of gratitude even when you have less than others?
4. Have someone in your group read or summarize Matthew 25:14-30. The parable illustrates how we've all been given different opportunities. What gifts, abilities, talents, or opportunities has God given to you?
5. Yes, we should be grateful for our gifts and talents, but Jesus primarily focuses on the responsibility that comes with your gifts and talents. How could you begin to "use well" these gifts for the benefit of others?
6. How could being responsible for what you have change your gratitude for what you have?

MOVING FORWARD

Being grateful and being responsible go hand in hand. Responsibility creates gratitude. If you want to become more grateful, start by being more responsible. It won't just change your heart. It might just change the world around you too.