

Sermon Title: Thanksgiving Sunday: Stories of Gratitude and Hope
Speaker: Testimonies from New Lifers – Joseph Thomas and Jeanette Felix
Scripture: Psalm 107: 1-3

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those he gathered from the lands from east and west, from north and south.

Psalm 107: 1-3 (NIV)

## **Sermon Outline:**

- Gratitude is not just thankfulness, it is a way of life. It is a knowing awareness that we are recipients of goodness.
- We can say "thank you" every day but not have our life shaped by gratitude or by the ways that God has met us during a difficult time or season.
- We are called to both recognize and testify what God has done for us. Sharing the story of God's goodness and blessings in our lives.
- What has gone before you is not your destiny, His grace is sufficient.
- In the midst of the storm, God hears our prayers. He is faithful and present, and we are to be dependent on
- God brings things that are good from things that are not. Look for Him even in the good and bad times.

## **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Pastor Rich shares a short sermon on gratitude, afterwards we will be hearing the testimonies of two New Lifers – Joseph Thomas and Jeanette Felix – as they share their stories of gratitude and hope, and God's goodness and blessings in their lives, during our Thanksgiving service.

## **Sermon Questions:**

- 1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
- 2. In your family of origin, what did your Thanksgiving celebrations look like? If you came from another country what was your first Thanksgiving like? What is something you are thankful for this year?
- 3. How much time do you give to comparing (enemy of gratitude); complaining (robs us of the gratitude God wants to fill our hearts) and coveting (failing to see the gifts that God has given you)?
- 4. What was a time in your life when it was difficult to see Jesus doing work? Looking back can you be thankful for that time?
- 5. Knowing His love endures forever, not just yesterday or today, what hope are you able to take from this promise?
- 6. Where in your life can you recognize God's goodness and what steps can you take to share that with others?