

# Grateful when we don't feel grateful: Cultivating gratitude as a church

## Jonty Allcock: Seminar 2

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### HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This is the second of two seminars. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, youth group or friends. The questions/re lections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life. Start the video and then pause it when suggested to look at the question(s).

### WATCH THE VIDEO:

**Seminar 2:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/53rkpf9s>

### SEMINAR OUTLINE

God's people have a rich history of grumbling. We will explore why this is so deadly to a church family and how intentionally developing a heart of gratitude is the greatest way to protect a church from that danger.

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### QUESTIONS

*Watch video and pause it at 11:58 minutes*

1. What do we learn from Ephesians 1:9-10, 2:15, 21-22 about the purpose of the church?
2. Why does having a big vision of church decrease grumbling and increase gratitude?

*Restart video at 11:58 (<https://tinyurl.com/yky9eupt>) and pause at 31:29 minutes*

3. If we understand the gospel to be the coming of God's kingdom (Mark 1:15), what difference does this make to:
  - How we present the gospel to people
  - How we deal with disagreements in church
  - How we view political leaders and their policies
4. In what ways does having a kingdom view of the gospel cultivate gratitude?

*Restart video at 31:29 (<https://tinyurl.com/4pzkz3u6>) and pause it at 39:58 minutes*

5. What measures could your church put in place to ensure people are appreciated and loved rather than just used to do ministry? How can you be part of this?

*Restart video at 39:58 (<https://tinyurl.com/2xa6r2rw>) and watch until the end*

6. In Philippians 2:25-30 why does Paul honour Epaphroditus? What does this teach us about how and why to honour people?

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### REFLECTION/PRAYER

- Think about your own ministry in the church. Are you serving with a sense of gratitude or are you feeling trapped by a wrong sense of duty and indebtedness? Pray about it and, if it's helpful, talk with a friend or your ministry team leader.
- Write a letter thanking someone in your church who has been an encouragement to you.
- Read a Christian biography. Notice how God's big vision of the church and of the gospel impacts the life of this individual and how central gratitude is.
- Meditate on Ephesians 3:20-21 and pray: 'Father, forgive us for the times our church has lost sight of what you are doing in the world and we've allowed a culture of grumbling. Thrill us again with your plans and purposes for the church and help us to grasp what it means to be part of your kingdom. When circumstances are tough and we can't see your hand, help us to be grateful, trusting that you are working in ways we can't imagine and knowing one day all will be gloriously revealed.'