

**A Thanksgiving
to Remember
Dec 1-8, 2013**

WELCOME (15 minutes)

- **Ice Breaker:** What's your favorite pie?
- **Announcements:**
 - **Discover New Life** – Sun, Dec 8, 5-8:30pm in room 206/7
 - **Marriage Matters** – Fri, Dec 13, 7-9pm in the Loft
 - **Adopt-A-Family this Christmas** – contact mely@enewlife.com if interested
 - **Sun AM Coffee Bar Volunteers Needed** – During and after 11:00 celebration!

WORSHIP (10 minutes)

- Sing #8 “**Good Christian Men Rejoice**” and #15 “**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**” from the **New Life Small Group CHRISTMAS CD**.
- Then have someone read **Jeremiah 33:14-16** and discuss how the Old Testament believers lived with a constant anticipation of the coming Messiah.
- Pray and thank Jesus for His coming 2000 years ago!

WIN (15 minutes)

- **PRAY** for the people you are reaching out to as a small group.
- **PLAN** an upcoming holiday activity or mission effort to do together as a group!

WORD (25 minutes)

1. Read aloud **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**. Pastor Claude reminded us that it's so easy to be so focused on the details of our story and lose sight of God's Bigger Story. But when we remember who God is and who we are in light of that we are able to give thanks regardless of the circumstances! Talk about how this relates to your life.
2. Read **Ephesians 2:1-3**. We need to have a Gospel-shaped identity: Living our lives based on who GOD says I am! BUT we all believe a combination of lies and truth. What are some of the lies that you are often tempted to believe about who you are?
3. Read **Ephesians 2:4-6**. We were a mess headed for destruction BUT GOD showed us mercy! What are some practical things you need to do differently this week to stop hanging around the graveyard and start living out who you are in Christ?
4. Read **Ephesians 2:8-9**. We bring NOTHING to the bargain-table – It's all Jesus! How is “religion” (the belief that we are somehow making ourselves more acceptable to God) the polar-opposite of the gospel? How does this show that God doesn't want us to be religious – but instead to live out our true gospel identity?
5. Read **Ephesians 2:10**. What are the specific “good works” that God might want YOU to do this week – not to earn His favor but because you have His favor?

WORKS (25 minutes)

- Break down into **2 or 3's of the same gender** & authentically **PRAY** for each other.