

# Gratitude

Deuteronomy 8

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## BELONG

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**Ask this Ice Breaker Question:** If given the chance, would you rather go in a capsule to the deepest part of the ocean or into outer space? (or perhaps neither!)

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## BELIEVE

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**Have someone in your group read aloud: Deuteronomy 8**

*Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):*

Moses is giving the people of Israel top priority instructions before they enter the promised land.

### 1. What role does remembering play in having a heart of gratitude?

*Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):*

Remembering helps us focus on what God has done for us, which helps us remain humble as we recognize the true source of our success: God alone.

### 2. Looking at verses 10-14, what danger lies lurking beneath the surface? Does it tend to be sudden or more incremental?

*Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):*

Over time we are at risk of forgetting that God is the sole provider. Like the proverbial frog in boiling water, our forgetfulness can easily slip in prideful thinking. Like Israel, we tend to be quick to acknowledge God immediately after an "event," but lose sight of Him over the long haul.

### 3. Compare verses 17-18 with Judges 7:2. What seems to be our struggle as a human race? What does God do to help us in this?

*Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):*

We all struggle with a spiritual short term memory. Because of pride, we like to give ourselves a pat on the back and tell ourselves that we deserve such and such. In His grace, God lovingly disciplines His children by stripping away things that might give a false impression of strength. Throughout Scripture, He often goes to absurd levels to prove this point for us (e.g. walking around Jericho, reducing Gideon's army, Naaman dipping in the Jordan River, etc). See also 1 Cor 1:27.



**4. Read Colossians 1:15-17. Why is it foolish for humans to be prideful against God?**

*Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):*

*As Gen 1:1 points out, it's not about us; and Col 1:17 reminds us that if God were to simply "let go" of us, we would cease to exist. The reality is that we have no standing apart from Him. Whatever it is we may boast about, how does that stack up to being able to create a universe out of nothing?*

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**BECOME:**

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**Ask this question:**

**5. What are some habits we can foster in order to live a life of humility and gratitude?**

**Close by reading Colossians 3:14-17 and then praying together.**