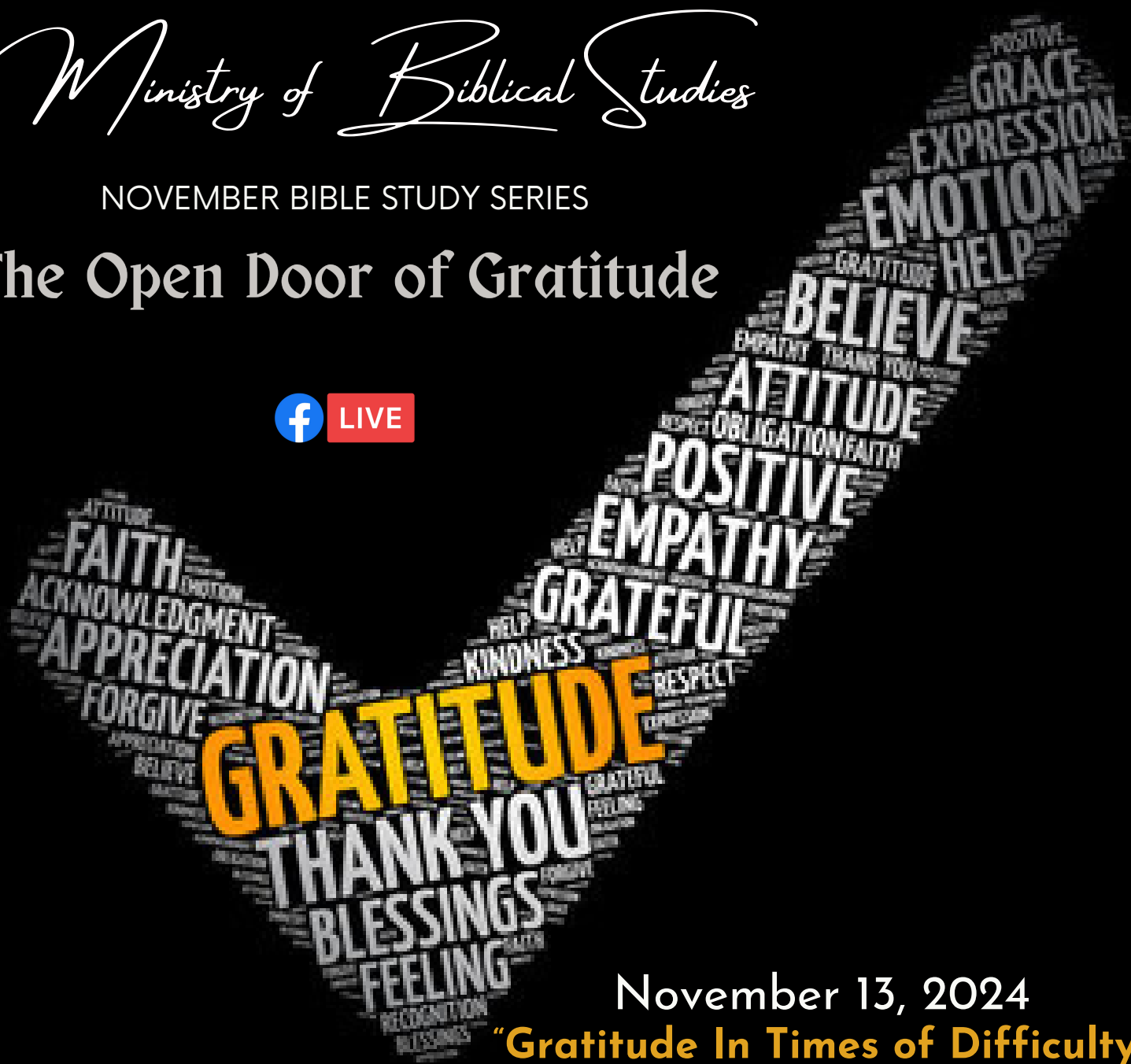




Ministry of Biblical Studies

NOVEMBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

The Open Door of Gratitude



November 13, 2024

"Gratitude In Times of Difficulty"

4610 S Prairie Avenue | Chicago, IL 60653

MCC1920.org

Rev. Leon Perry III, Senior Pastor

Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church
Ministry of Biblical Study Classes
November 13, 2024

“Gratitude In Times of Difficulty”
11:00am - 11:45am

Introduction: Gratitude During Hardship

In this class, we will explore how the Bible encourages us to maintain a spirit of gratitude, even when facing trials. We will look at scriptures that remind us of God’s faithfulness and discuss practical ways to foster thankfulness, regardless of our circumstances.

Key Scripture Passages:

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

- What does it mean to “give thanks in all circumstances”?
- How can we apply this in moments of personal hardship?

2. Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

- How does gratitude connect to peace in this passage?
- Have you experienced God’s peace through gratitude during tough times?

3. James 1:2-4

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

- Why does James encourage believers to see joy in trials?
- How can we shift our perspective to see challenges as opportunities for growth?

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time when it was difficult to feel grateful. How did you navigate that season?
2. Why do you think gratitude is important for our spiritual growth, especially during hardships?
3. How can we practically cultivate a heart of gratitude on a daily basis?

Practical Applications:

1. Gratitude Journal:

- a. Spend time each day writing down three things you are thankful for, especially focusing on blessings that have come during difficult times.

2. Gratitude in Prayer:

- a. When praying, consciously include thanks for challenges, asking God to help you see how He is working through them.

3. Encourage Someone:

- a. Reach out to someone facing hardship. Share encouraging words and remind them of God's faithfulness.

Closing Reflection:

Reflect on the ways God has been faithful in your life, even in the midst of trials. End this session with a prayer of gratitude for His unchanging presence and provision.

Closing Prayer:

Ask God to help you recognize His goodness in all circumstances, and for a heart that remains thankful, regardless of the trials you may face.

