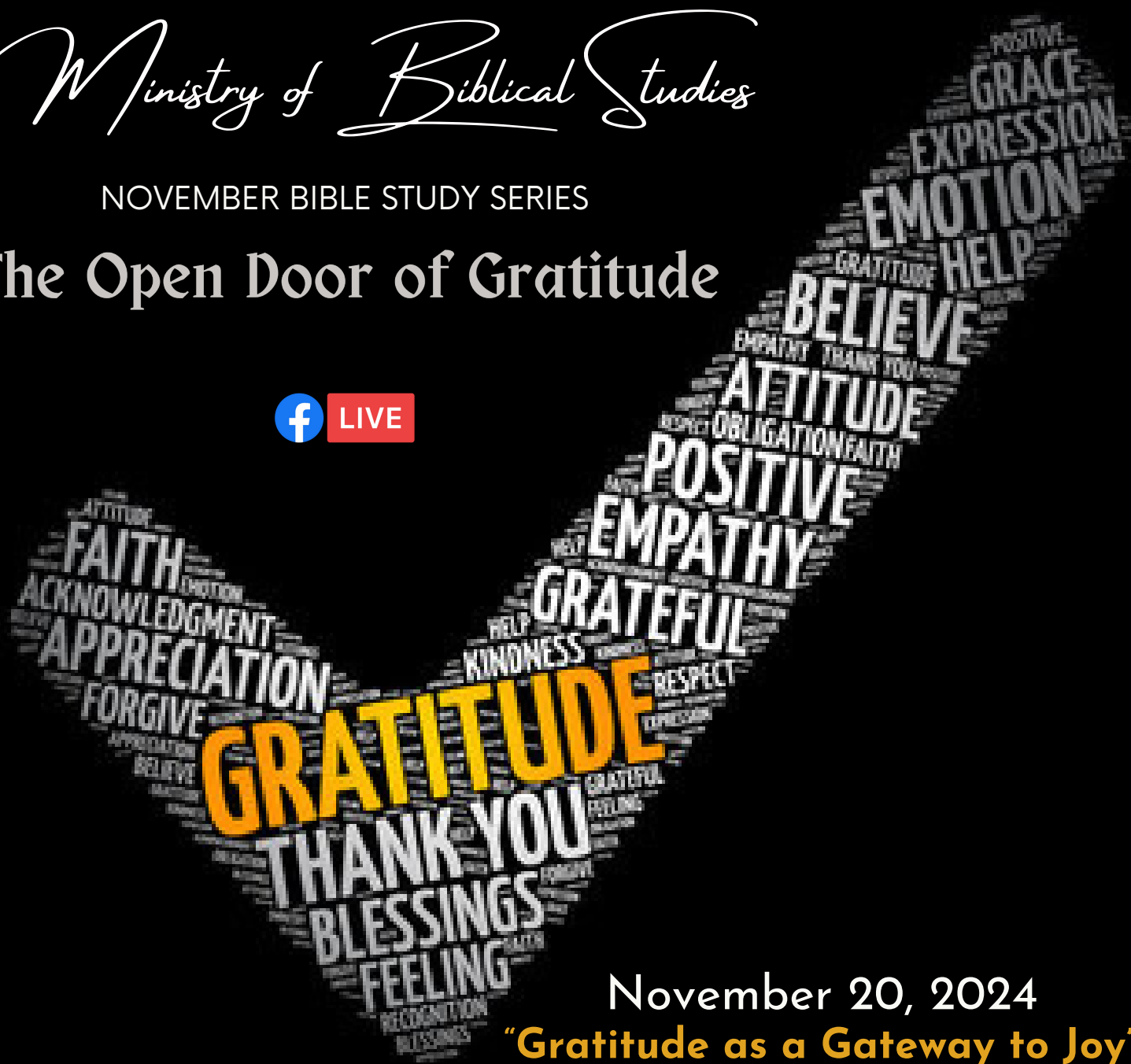




Ministry of Biblical Studies

NOVEMBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

The Open Door of Gratitude



November 20, 2024

"Gratitude as a Gateway to Joy"

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 20, 2024

“Gratitude as a Gateway to Joy”
11:00am - 11:45am

Introduction: Gratitude and Joy

In this class, we will explore how gratitude opens the door to experiencing deeper joy. Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have received, allowing us to recognize God’s goodness in every season of life.

Key Scripture Passages:

1. Psalm 100:1-5

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

- How does thanksgiving lead us into God’s presence with joy?
- Why is it important to regularly practice giving thanks?

2. Colossians 3:16-17

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

- How does gratitude influence the way we live out our faith in everyday life?
- What role does thankfulness play in bringing joy to our worship and relationships?

3. Psalm 118:24

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

- How can we practice finding joy in each day, no matter the circumstances?
- What can we do to cultivate a mindset of gratitude daily?

Discussion Questions:

1. How has gratitude helped you experience joy in your life?
2. Why do you think joy follows a thankful heart, even when circumstances are difficult?
3. In what ways can we develop habits of gratitude that lead to greater joy?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Thankfulness Habit:
 - a. Begin and end each day by thanking God for specific blessings. Reflect on how this changes your mood and outlook over time.
2. Gratitude in Worship:
 - a. Be intentional about expressing thankfulness when you worship—whether through singing, praying, or reflecting on scripture. How does this practice affect your experience of joy?
3. Spread Joy Through Encouragement:
 - a. Share words of gratitude and encouragement with others. Notice how expressing thankfulness impacts the joy of those around you.

Closing Reflection:

Gratitude is a key that unlocks joy in every aspect of our lives. As we cultivate a thankful heart, we open ourselves up to the fullness of joy that comes from recognizing God's love and provision.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the gift of joy that comes from a heart of gratitude. Ask Him to help you continually find joy in His presence and His daily blessings.

