



## THE LOST VIRTUE

# REALife Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or REALife Group.

### \* Gratitude in Crisis Exodus 14-15

**Gratitude = Appreciation for benefits received.**

Gratitude determines our perspective in crisis.

**Lack of Gratitude:**

**Perspective = What have you done for me lately?**

- No appreciation of past benefits/blessings
- No awareness of God's control and plan
- No concern for anyone else

**Gratitude:**

**Perspective = God will be Faithful. He has a plan.**

- Appreciation is Personal
- Appreciation is Specific
- Appreciation is God-ward

\* 3rd message in the The Lost Virtue series, by Pastor Russell Johnson. CDs of this message (11/15/09) may be purchased at the Resource Center or listened to online at [www.hcbc.com](http://www.hcbc.com).

- 1) Since we have all been through a crisis, spend some time thinking about some of those past experiences. What was your perspective at the time? What can you learn from your past perspectives in crisis that will help you in the future?
- 2) Read James 1:2-4. According to the passage, write down the benefits of the crises and trials we encounter. Write down specifically how you have become a better person because of the trials and crises in your life. Spend time thanking God for those trials and the person they have helped you become.

### **Weekly Challenge:**

It is not everyday that the Lord splits the Red Sea, but He is found faithful in many smaller ways. This week start a list of the small things God does in your life. At the end of the week, read those things back to God and express your gratitude for His faithfulness. Begin another list for a co-worker, friend, spouse, or child. These people also do a lot of little things for us that we may never express appreciation for. Find a time to thank that person for the little things that they do.

### **Memory Verse:**

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4*