

**Gratitude to God and positive downstream  
indirect reciprocity.  
The mediating role of searching  
for meaning in life**

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Everyday reality shows that all the things connected with human life, even if we are not consciously aware of this, are associated not only with the principle of direct reciprocity (you-I, I-you), but also with positive downstream indirect reciprocity (PoDIR; you-other, I-you). Considering the importance of PoDIR for the individual and social functioning of people, the purpose of the present study was to verify whether gratitude to God and meaning in life were related to PoDIR, and whether the direct relationship between gratitude to God and PoDIR could be affected indirectly by meaning in life. The following measures were used: the Gratitude to God Questionnaire, the Positive Downstream Indirect Reciprocity Scale, the Meaning in Life Questionnaire, and the Religious Meaning System Questionnaire. As predicted, the outcomes corroborated all three hypotheses well enough and were coherent with our assumptions (since there is not much research on the topic). Gratitude to God positively correlated with PoDIR and was positively linked to meaning in life, with both its dimensions—the presence of meaning and search for meaning. Meaning in life was positively associated with downstream reciprocity. Moreover, the overall result of meaning in life and searching for meaning mediated the relationship between gratitude to God and positive downstream reciprocity.

**Keywords:** gratitude to God; positive downstream indirect reciprocity; meaning in life.

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