

Thankfulness

Thankfulness is not just for November, it should be a state of being for those who put their faith, hope, and trust in the Lord Christ Jesus. I Corinthians 15:56 reads, "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Our entire new life, as a Christian, is because Jesus overcame sin and the grave when he died on the cross in our place. Are we now perfect, of course not only Jesus lived a perfect life on earth, which means we need His forgiveness daily and thus should be always thankful to our Lord and Savior.

Week 1

Talking to God

Give thanks to God for saving you and bringing you back into a right relationship with Him.

Going Deeper

Life is busy and sometimes it might seem like we don't have time to pray and so we can find ourselves praying and simply stating our needs to God. However, we need to keep reminding ourselves of the sacrifice He made to make it possible for us to even go before Him, a holy, righteous, and all-powerful God. We should take time to "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" Psalm 100:4.

Although God is gracious, kind, and patient, that doesn't remove the fact that He is worthy of reverence and praise. When Jesus was asked how we should pray, he said, "This then, is how you should pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name," Matthew 6:9. It is easier to exalt His name and give him honor before making our requests known, when we go to him with a thankful heart.

Take Action

Start your next prayer to God by remembering all he has done for you and then exalting his name from that place of a thankful heart.

Week 2

Talking to God

Give thanks to the Lord for the family of God that he has given you.

Going deeper

Our biological family, you might love them or not, even the church family can have issues, however, we know that “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” Romans 8:16. Therefore, we are all family, with the best father ever, our heavenly Father. We can be thankful for the new brothers and sisters, who will listen, encourage, and pray for us for blessings, healing, and strength.

As we walk out this gospel, showing love to one another, we should be thankful.

Take Action

Tell someone from our church family how thankful you are that they are in your life, give them a call, a text, or the next time you see them, tell them.

Week 3

Talking to God

What are the “light and momentary afflictions” you might be dealing with today? Remember the ones He has already brought you through, and give thanks for those. Then, bring your current struggles to the father.

Going deeper

One of our favorite Psalms, 23, in verse 4 says, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me”. Throughout history, this psalm has brought comfort to God’s people amid the dark valleys of life. We can be thankful to God, for giving us his word, filled with such great testimonies of his faithfulness to his people, and as we see it play out in our own lives.

Take Action

Thank God for some of the valleys he has brought you through and share one of those experiences with a brother or sister in Christ.

Let your testimony bring encouragement to someone around you.

Week 4

Talking to God

Consider your family or friends, who among them have not surrendered to Jesus yet? Pray and thank Him for those who are currently following Him.

Going Deeper

Many Christians have claimed Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Some have been blessed to see their families come to Christ. There are examples in the scriptures of who and why we should pray for those who are lost. 1 Timothy 2:1-6 says, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people" and continues "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Prayer is our best offensive weapon against an unseen enemy who is out to kill, steal, and destroy as many of God's creations as possible. When we pray for people, we are aligning ourselves with Jesus, as it says in Luke 19:10, "For the son of man came to seek and save the lost."

Take Action

Need help spreading the good news, ask God for help and maybe use this verse as a prayer, Ephesians 6:19-20, "And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."

Week 5

Talking to God

Give thanks to the Lord for each day, come what may, because He is worthy!

Going Deeper

When should we give thanks to God? According to 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Whether we got up on the right or wrong side of the bed, the dog ate your homework, it’s a bad hair day, no matter what happens in life, we should give thanks to God.

Why? If for nothing else, but for the hope of our salvation, which is in Christ. Romans 8:23-24, “²³And not only this, but we too, who have the first fruits of the Spirit [a joyful indication of the blessings to come], even we groan inwardly, as we wait eagerly for [the sign of] our adoption as sons—the redemption *and* transformation of our body [at the resurrection]. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved [by faith].” Our hope does not lie in things of this world, we store up treasures in heaven.

Take Action

Take the offensive, as 2 Corinthians 10:5 says, “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

Once that is done, give thanks to the King of kings and Lord of lords, the creator of the heavens and earth and all that is created. It is by Him “we live, and move, and have our being”, Acts 17:28. Praise Him!