

GIVING THANKS

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The holidays are important times with family and friends. These are the moments that our children and grandchildren will remember for a lifetime, so let's capitalize on these moments for spiritual formation! In writing to the believers in Thessalonica, Paul challenged them that it is God's will for us to be thankful in all circumstances. Thanksgiving and the entire month of November are perfect times to cultivate in our families the spiritual discipline of "Giving Thanks."

Parents and Grandparents, pick from one of the activities below for your family to complete in the month of November. All three activities have the same goal: daily learning to be thankful in all circumstances. Pick whichever activity interests you or fits your family's personality. The key is consistency; do your absolute best to be faithful daily to record your family's list of thanks.



FILL THE JAR

Place a clear container in the center of your dining room table. Included with this resource is a sheet full of "I Am Thankful For..." boxes. Cut these into strips that you can write on. Every day in November, have each family member write down something they are thankful for on one of the strips and then place it in the jar.



MAKE YOUR LISTS

Each night in the month of November fill in one of the blocks on the attached "Giving Thanks" paper. Each day has a new theme of something that you can be thankful for. Come up with as many answers each day as a family that you can and write them down in the box for that day.



COVER THE PUMPKIN

Purchase a large pumpkin and place it in the middle of your dinner table. Each night as you have dinner, have every family member write one or more things that they are thankful for onto the pumpkin with a permanent marker.

ON THANKSGIVING DAY, REVIEW ALL THE THINGS THAT YOUR FAMILY WROTE THAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR. READ THEM ALOUD, THEN PRAY AND GIVE GOD THANKS FOR ALL HE HAS DONE!

GIVING THANKS

GOD

NOV. 1

YOUR FAMILY

NOV. 2

YOUR FRIENDS

NOV. 3

CHURCH

NOV. 4

HOW GOD MADE YOU

NOV. 5

WHAT YOU HAVE

NOV. 6

WHERE YOU LIVE

NOV. 7

WHAT YOU ENJOY

NOV. 8

FOOD

NOV. 9

**SOMETHING YOU APPRECIATE
ABOUT A FAMILY MEMBER**

NOV. 10

PLACES YOU HAVE VISITED

NOV. 11

**SOMETHING YOU
HAVE LEARNED**

NOV. 12

GIVING THANKS

PEOPLE WHO HAVE
HELPED YOU

NOV. 13

A FAVORITE MEMORY

NOV. 14

SOMEONE YOU ARE GLAD
IS IN YOUR LIFE

NOV. 15

PETS, SPORTS, OR HOBBIES

NOV. 16

SOMETHING THAT
RELAXES YOU

NOV. 17

A CHARACTER TRAIT OF GOD
(MERCY, GRACE, FORGIVENESS)

NOV. 18

FAVORITE HOLIDAYS

NOV. 19

WHAT YOU LOVE
ABOUT THE WEEKENDS

NOV. 20

THINGS YOU NEED THAT
GOD HAS PROVIDED

NOV. 21

FAVORITE BOOKS OR MOVIES

NOV. 22

WHAT YOU LOVE
ABOUT THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING DAY!

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