

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.

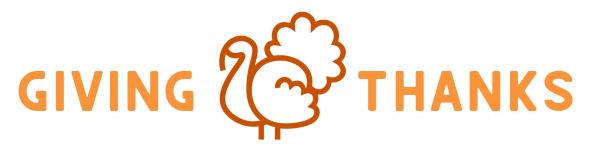


COVER THE PUMPKIN

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!

I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR
I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR	I AM THANKFUL FOR



GOD	YOUR FAMILY	YOUR FRIENDS
NOV.1	NOV. 2	NOV. 3
CHURCH	HOW GOD MADE YOU	WHAT YOU HAVE
NOV. 4	NOV. 5	NOV. 6
WHERE YOU LIVE	WHAT YOU ENJOY	FOOD
NOV. 7	NOV. 8	NOV. 9
SOMETHING YOU APPRECIATE ABOUT A FAMILY MEMBER	PLACES YOU HAVE VISITED	SOMETHING YOU HAVE LEARNED
NOV. 10	NOV. 11	NOV. 12



PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED YOU

A FAVORITE MEMORY

SOMEONE YOU ARE GLAD IS IN YOUR LIFE

NOV. 13

NOV. 14

NOV. 15

PETS, SPORTS, OR HOBBIES

SOMETHING THAT RELAXES YOU

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

NOV. 16

NOV. 17

NOV. 18

FAVORITE HOLIDAYS

WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT THE WEEKENDS

THINGS YOU NEED THAT GOD HAS PROVIDED

NOV. 19

NOV. 20

NOV. 21

FAVORITE BOOKS OR MOVIES

WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT THANKSGIVING

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

NOV. 22

THANKSGIVING DAY!