



Thanksgiving

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



Thanksgiving week is a wonderful time to be with family and friends. It's also a great reminder to give 'Thanks' for the many blessings God has granted. As you prepare to celebrate this week, the following activities will help your family to practice gratitude.

The ABC's of Gratitude

Begin by reading Luke 17:11-19 with the family. Discuss the story of the 10 Lepers and why only 1 returned to give thanks to Jesus when all of them had received such a miraculous gift of being healed. How easy is it to remember to give thanks for all the ways God has loved and blessed your family? Discuss some of the reasons why you might forget to actually pause and give thanks.

Explain to kids that you want to create something to remind you to give thanks for all God has done. As a family, make an acrostic of gratitude using all 26 letters of the alphabet. You will use each letter of the alphabet to think of something or someone for which they are grateful. For example, students may use the letter "P" to say that they are grateful for "Parents." Be creative and display the page or poster in the house as a reminder this week.

Giving Thanks in All Circumstances

Begin by reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Discuss some situations in which it is easy to give thanks and some that make thankfulness more difficult—like failing a test or fighting with a friend. Explain to kids that God doesn't expect us to be thankful for bad things, but He does want us to know that we can be thankful even while those things are happening because He is always good.

Read Romans 8:28. Remind your family that, in all things, God is in control. No matter what we're feeling or going through, God is good and His will is perfect. He never promises to keep us away from pain, but He does promise to be with us in the middle of it. That is a reason for us to be thankful.

End by leading your family in a time of "popcorn prayers." Invite them to stand and say a short prayer using the phrase, "God, I thank you for..." You can go in random order or move around the table. Help kids think of something if they struggle but encourage them to say whatever God brings to mind. This is a great prayer method to teach them to be comfortable talking with God.

If You're Thankful and You Know It

Get the whole family involved and have a little fun singing the song, "If You're Happy and You Know It." Only this time, change the word 'happy' to 'thankful.' Take turns coming up with fun motions or actions to add to the song and sing as a family.

Read 1 John 4:11. Explain that one of the ways we can give thanks to God is by loving others the way He has loved us. And one of the ways we can love others is by saying 'Thank You' for the ways they have served or helped your family. Take some time to write thank you cards for someone like a teacher, coach, police officer, fireman or mailman. Make sure kids have the opportunity to deliver the note this week and give thanks to that person as an act of gratitude and worship.

