



SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT AND STUDY GUIDE

Sunday, November 20, 2022

Special Thanksgiving Lesson: Be Thankful

Instructions for This Week:

1. Take this week to study your Sunday School lesson prior to coming to class.
2. Do the homework assignments throughout this study guide.
3. Bring the study guide along with your answers to class.

See you there!

Key Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Introduction

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, our minds naturally think of thankfulness – you can't say Thanksgiving without saying "thanks". But let's consider in our heart of hearts, are we really thankful? It is so easy to receive all that we receive in this life and just go on our merry way as though it was a given that we would have these blessings...but what would our lives be like if we truly lived with an attitude of gratitude?

The Bible is clear; there is supernatural power in thanksgiving. In the story of the 10 lepers, all were healed as they went – but the one who came back to Jesus to say thank you was made whole...restored. In this week's lesson, we're going to talk about some specific things we should be thankful for (we

just can't tell it all!) and share some of the benefits of thankfulness. Let's get started!

Things We Should Be Thankful For

1. God Woke You Up This Morning

Well, if you are reading this lesson it's safe to say you have this to be thankful for! It was not your alarm clock that woke you up this morning – it was the grace of God. So what will you do with this gift of a new day? God has given you another opportunity to experience His new mercies, to show love, to serve Him. There were some who didn't receive the gift of a new day today, so don't take it for granted!

2. Salvation

Romans 6:23 says, For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We should be eternally grateful for the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. He was betrayed, beaten, mocked and then died an excruciating death on the cross so that we could be reconciled back to God and live with Him in heaven when we pass away! James 4:14 says, For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. We only have the time that we are alive on this Earth to make a decision that will impact where we spend eternity. If you haven't made the decision to accept Christ as your Savior, do it today!

3. A Fresh Start

Lamentations 3:22-23

*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. It is doubtless that we all made mistakes yesterday – but thankfully our mistakes don't define us, and we don't have to agonize over those mistakes. When we repent, the Bible says that God will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea (**Micah 7:19**). Don't let the weight of yesterday's mistakes hold you down today!*

4. The Ability to Worship and Praise God

When we lift our hands and begin to worship and give God praise, things shift and move in the spirit realm! The Bible says, in **Psalm 22:3**, *But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.* Your praise invites God's glory, His presence, to fill your life and turn your situation around. In the midst of our praise, our challenges begin to come into perspective – is there anything too hard for God? No! And we know that in the presence of the Lord is the fulness of joy!

5. Our Church and Pastors

In His infinite wisdom and grace, God has established a life system for His children to come together and get plugged into, under the leadership of Pastors He anointed and appointed to feed us with knowledge and understanding from His Word. Thank God for the universal church...but we thank God especially for **Harvest Life Church** – and our precious Senior Pastors, Bishop Dukes and Pastor Deborah. Just a few of the many blessings that come from being part of Harvest Life are:

a. A Pastoral Spiritual Covering

In addition to giving us God’s Word, our Senior Pastors also give us unconditional love and provide a spiritual covering (protection). They provide godly wisdom and instructions which help to increase our knowledge and understanding of God - specifically, His principles, purpose and plans for our lives.



Did You Know? In the book of Revelation, God refers to pastors as “angels” of the church.

b. A Church Family

You gain an awesome church family – sisters and brothers in Christ that you learn and serve with, laugh and cry with, fellowship, believe and grow with. We come into the church at different levels of understanding, from different backgrounds, from various parts of the globe – and God works in and through us to accomplish great ministry.

c. Opportunities to Serve

You have a place to use your gifts and talents to advance God’s kingdom...and to have those gifts refined and sharpened through teaching and training. The things you learn in church will bless you in every aspect of your life!

Assignment: List 3 ways that being part of Harvest Life Church has blessed your life. If you have children, share one way that they have been blessed at Harvest.

- _____
- _____
- _____

6. Your Family

All of us have a mother and father, some of us have sisters and brothers – and we have them all in our lives with varying degrees of relationship. Some families are tight-knit, others not so much; but however your family relates to each other, you can still thank God for them! Through the experiences you had being a part of your particular family, you learned some things; maybe you learned to follow God’s principles or maybe through your experiences you learned the importance of forgiveness. One thing is certain; God did not randomly place you in your family! If you describe them by saying, “They all need Jesus!” who knows? Your assignment may be to lead them all to Christ!

7. God Is Our Provider

The apostle Paul says in *Philippians 4:19*, *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*. God is omniscient, meaning He knows all things – including the things we truly need and He provides them in His time.

Assignment: Share something God has provided for you.

8. Trials and tribulations

It may seem odd to be thankful for our trials and tribulations, but the Word of God gives us some insight on this. *James 1:2-4* says, *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing*. Our trials are working some things into us and some things out of us! They help make, mold and shape us so that we are “wanting” (lacking) nothing. We can also thank God for walking with us through every one of our trials and bringing us out!

9. Your Future

God has a great future in store for you! *Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)* says, *For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* When you are a child of God, you don’t need demonic devices such as horoscopes, tarot cards, palm readers or a crystal ball to know your future. Just open your bible and read God’s promises!

10. You're Never Alone

God assures us in *Hebrews 13:5* that He will never leave us or forsake us. In *Proverbs 18:24* we see Jesus described as "...a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." This is especially relevant as we are coming out of the pandemic and the forced isolation that came with it. Just know that God is always right there with you – a very present help in time of trouble.

11. Your Gifts and Talents

God has blessed each one of us with gifts and talents - special ways that God has given us to advance His kingdom and to minister to His people. Some people have a gift to sing or play an instrument, some people have the gift of seeing ways that people need help and providing that help. Others have the gift to teach or work with children. Whatever gift(s) you've been given, be sure to exercise responsibility – when the need arises, respond with your ability!

The Benefits of Being Thankful

So, we've discussed some of the things in life that we should be thankful for – now we'll take a look at some of the benefits of this "attitude of gratitude". Some of them may surprise you!

Being thankful:

1. Reduces anxiety and leads to inner peace.

Philippians 4:8 says, *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* Meditate on the good in your life!

2. Erodes envy

Luke 12:15 admonishes us to "...beware of covetousness...". Be content with what you have – and remember, the grass may not be greener on the other side, but even if it is, water your own grass - who knows what God will do!

3. Helps you to have better relationships

Even in the natural sense, it's more pleasant to spend time with someone who is upbeat and positive than someone who complains about everything!

4. Helps you to experience deeper spiritual joy

It has been said that those who seek God in everything will find Him in everything. When you see His hand in every facet of your life, thinking

about His care for you should bring joy to your heart. The fact that the sovereign God who created the entire universe is concerned about the day-to-day affairs of your life is mind-blowing!

5. Helps you to have a healthier, stronger immune system

Grateful people tend to enjoy better health than ungrateful people! God's Word says in *Proverbs 17:22*, *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

6. Gives you access to God's Presence

We *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise..." Psalms 100:4.* Our thanksgiving gets us into the gates, and our praise ushers us into His courts!

7. Ignites joy in you

You can't be truly thanking God and be sad. Thanksgiving and joy go hand in hand. As you begin to thank God, negative feelings of sadness, moodiness, depression, etc. disappear. Joy is released. The more you thank God, the more joy that is released in you.

8. Gives you supernatural strength to face and overcome the challenges of life

Life's challenges could be overwhelming, but thankful people handle life's crises better; they have a positive perspective in the midst of life's crises.

9. Positions you for more blessings

If you thank God for what He's done for you, you prepare yourself for more from Him.

10. Keeps you humble

When you give thanks to God, you're giving Him credit. You're saying it's not by your power, might, or wisdom; you're calling attention to Him, not to yourself.

There's an old church song that says, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings. See what God has done."

Let's rise up and begin to thank God! There is so much to thank Him for in your life. Don't let the devil deceive you – you are blessed! The more you thank God, the better your life will be. **Cultivate the habit of thanking God.**