



5 Days of Thanksgiving Family Devotions

Thanksgiving is a wonderful opportunity to spend time as a family reflecting on God's many blessings. Below is a series of simple family devotions for you to use leading up to Thanksgiving, focusing on Bible verses that give thanks to God. Each day's devotional includes a short reading, Bible verse, discussion questions, and a prayer prompt.

DAY 1

Read:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

This Bible verse reminds us to give thanks to God because His love is with us forever! His love for us never ends, and our thankfulness to God should never end. In the United States, we have a day set aside to be thankful for our many blessings, and it is a very special day full of family and food, two of our wonderful blessings! As Christians, we know the true source of ALL our blessings—God!

Talk:

1. What is your favorite Thanksgiving Day blessing (it's okay if your answer is pumpkin pie!)?
2. Share 3 more of your very special blessings. What else are you thankful for?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God's love never ends?

Pray:

As we start this week of Thanksgiving, let's praise the Lord for everything He has made. Go around and have everyone say something the Lord has made that they are thankful for. We should never stop giving thanks to God for those things!

DAY 2

Read:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17)

This verse in James reminds us that every good thing is from God. The verse also tells us that God never changes—He is the same, and His gifts are the same, no matter what is going on. What an important reminder about God's nature and how perfectly He loves us!

When President Abraham Lincoln declared the first Thanksgiving holiday in the United States, he wanted all Americans to remember the source of their blessings and gifts. Even in the middle of a horrible war (the Civil War), Lincoln knew that the people had a lot to be thankful for. God was still present and working—and blessing His people—during the war. In his proclamation making Thanksgiving a holiday in 1863, he said that the year was full of "the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies," and that "They are gracious gifts of the Most High God."

Talk:

1. What good gifts can you thank God for today?
2. What do you think it means that God never changes?
3. Why do you think it's important to thank God, even in hard times?

Pray:

Can you think of some of the biggest blessings in your life this year? What is something good that has happened? Did you see God show His beauty and love in the middle of something hard? Let's share those things together and then praise God for His good gifts to us.

DAY 3

Read:

*"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!" Psalm 95:1-6*

What a beautiful verse from the Psalms! We have so many reasons to come to God with thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 95 lists some of them—let's see how many we can find: (God is our salvation; God is a great God; God is the King above all kings; The earth belongs to God; The mountains belong to God; God made the sea; God made the land).

As we prepare for Thanksgiving this week, let's make sure we remember the One to whom we owe thanks for every good thing! Isn't it amazing to know that we belong to God, but also that the whole world belongs to God? He loves the world and everything He created, and He calls us to love those things too.

Talk:

1. What do you think it means to "make a joyful noise"?
2. What is your favorite part of God's creation?

3. What is one way you can show your thanks to God by taking care of the things He made?

Pray:

Let's take a moment to think about all the things we have to thank God for, and how He calls us to love the things He has created. Then let's pray and ask Him to always help us be aware of His blessings and to be grateful for them.

DAY 4

Read:

*"Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!"* (Psalm 105:1-6)

Psalm 105 gives us wonderful instructions for how to show thanks to the Lord—by telling other people about His works, singing praises to His name, seeking His presence every day, and remembering the many good things He has done! When we think about spreading the Good News of God and what He has done for us, it is important to reflect on the story of the Bible and the many promises God made to His people from the beginning of time—and the marvelous ways He kept those promises by sending Jesus.

Talk:

1. What are some ways we can give thanks to God this Thanksgiving by telling other people about Him?
2. What is your favorite song that sings praises to God?
3. What is one way you can "seek" God's presence (which means to look for ways to spend time with Him)?

Pray:

Let's ask God to help us see opportunities to tell other people about Him and His wonderful works.

DAY 5

Read:

"...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:19-20)

Ephesians 5 provides a beautiful picture for how we should celebrate Thanksgiving! As we give thanks with our family and friends, let's also remember to give thanks to God. This verse

also says to sing songs to God in our hearts all of the time. What do you think that means? It means that even when we can't actually sing, our hearts should always be praising God. God is in everything, all the time—and we can give thanks to Him always and for everything! Sometimes we can sing out loud, though, and Thanksgiving is the perfect time!

Talk:

1. What do you think it means to praise God in your heart (without singing out loud)?
2. If you had to choose just one or two words to shout out to God in thanksgiving, what would it be?
3. Can you think of one more thing to be thankful for as we get closer to Thanksgiving Day?

Pray:

Do you know what a "doxology" is? It is a short song of praise to God. Let's sing the doxology together to close out this beautiful week of thanksgiving—

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen*