

Thanksgiving

*It is a time of deep thanksgiving to the Lord
for blessing you with a good harvest and in so many other ways;
it shall be a time of great joy.*

-Deuteronomy 16:15b TLB

FIRST DAY:

The psalmist wrote in Psalm 33:21, *Our hearts shall rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His holy name.* Pause and meditate on the names of God. Choose a few of those names and share why you rejoice in and are thankful for each of those characteristics of our God.

*Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His son!*

SECOND DAY:

1. As you reflect on the names of God, take a moment and share what the Lord has taught you as you have studied His names.

2. Look up the following verses and share what you discovered about rejoicing in who God is:
 - a. Psalm 5:11

 - b. Psalm 9:10

3. What does I Thessalonians 5:18 teach about giving thanks?
 - a. Take the most difficult problem in your life today. What do you find in this to give thanks for?
 - b. How does knowing the character of God and trusting in His name enable you to be thankful in *everything*?

*It is a bad moment for an atheist when he feels grateful-
Whom does he thank?*

THIRD DAY:

1. *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits* (Psalm 103:2). Read through this psalm and list the things the psalmist is thankful for:

2. David was a man of many blessings, both spiritual and material. Yet, according to Psalm 103, what kinds of things was he thankful for?

- a. In what way might you apply this psalm when you are feeling down and ungrateful?

3. What does the phrase *abounding therein with thanksgiving* (Colossians 2:7c) say to you?

- a. What helps you to do this?

*How happy a person is depends on the depth of his gratitude
-J. Miller*

FOURTH DAY:

1. Scan Psalm 106:1-25 paying particular attention to verses 7,13,25. Why was the wrath of God kindled against Israel?

a. What do the following Scriptures say about murmuring and complaining:

1. I Corinthians 10:10

2. Philippians 2:14

2. Observe and record the consequences of not being thankful from Romans 1:21.

a. *The beginning of man's rebellion against God was and is the lack of a thankful heart. This is a prevalent malady in our nation. Apparently our country has often suffered this affliction. Glimpse this in the fourth paragraph of the Thanksgiving Proclamation. Summarize the problem.*

b. What do you think is the basis for a lack of gratitude or murmuring?

3. The opposite of murmuring is praise or thanksgiving. What does Hebrews 13:15 say about this?

a. How can we apply this verse in practical terms?

b. Think of a time that you chose to praise the Lord when you did not feel like it. What was the result?

- c. *The bird sings not because he has the answer, but because he has a song.* What are some of your favorite songs of praise?

Thanksgiving is a duty before it is a feeling

FIFTH DAY:

1. List something you are thankful for that begins with each letter of the alphabet in the first column. In the second column list something about the Lord you are thankful for.

COLUMN ONE

COLUMN TWO

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less

SIXTH DAY:

1. Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us. It is so easy to gather with relatives or friends and neglect to focus on what the day is really all about. Share a creative way to emphasize the true purpose and meaning of Thanksgiving Day.
2. Review the quotes which follow each day of the study. Share how one or more of them has spoken to you.
3. How have you been inspired this week through your focus on thanksgiving to express a deeper measure of gratitude and appreciation to the Lord?

*...Praise our God, all you His servants and you that fear Him, both small and great.
-Revelation 19:5*

Excerpt from a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln - 1863

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!