

11-14

SEASONS OF GIVING 1: Giving Thanks

With the Christmas season around the corner, we are going to use the next few weeks to think about the real meaning of Christmas and how important it is to give thanks, give what God has given us back to Him and the beauty of giving.

In this session we are thinking about how often in our busy lives we stop and give thanks to God. Sometimes it's easy to take everything we have for granted. If we live with gratitude (feeling grateful), it can make a massive difference not just in our life's, but to people around us.

ACTIVITY 1

In the Bible we can find many examples of people who gave thanks to God about different situations. The Bible is full of thankfulness. We are going to look at one of the many stories, where someone was thankful to Jesus.

Play the following video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzZUDRrKgl8>

(The Thankful Leper by Saddleback Kids)

1. Why do you think the other ten didn't say thanks to Jesus?
2. Have you ever done something kind and no one said thank you? How did it make you feel?
3. Do you think you often forget to say thank you to others? Why?
4. Why is thankfulness important?

ACTIVITY 2

There are many different things we can thank God for. The Bible is full of thanksgiving. There were many people who thank God for loads of different reasons. Let's look at just some of them.

Read

- 1 Chronicles 16:34 (Thanks for His goodness)
*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever*
- Mathew 15:36 (Thanks for providing for us)
Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.
- Psalm 139:14 (Thanks for creating us)
*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*
- Psalm 107:8 (Thanks for everything God has done for us)
*Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind*
- 1 Corinthians 15:57 (Thanks for giving His son – Jesus)
But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITY 3

Read

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1. What does it mean to give thanks in everything?
2. How easy do you find giving thanks when things are tough?

It is easy to give thanks when life is running smoothly. However, God said that we shouldn't be giving thanks only when things are easy. But we are to give thanks in everything. We can celebrate thanksgiving in times of joy and in times of pain.

When things get tough in our lives, it can become a little hard to be thankful. We tend to focus on the bad stuff instead of the good stuff and sometimes things are just going to be hard. Things in life are going to get pretty bad every now and then, but that doesn't mean the thankfulness should stop. God remains good yesterday, today and forever.

ACTIVITY 4

Do you let others know that you appreciate them and are thankful for them? There are lots of people in our life that we often forget to say thanks for. Let's take a moment to do just that.

Think of people in your life that have been kind to you and done a lot for you (e.g. parents, teachers, youth workers, a friend etc).

What could we do to show them we are thankful.

Some ideas:

- How about write a letter or a card to them saying why you are thankful for them and what things you love about them etc.
- If you don't want to write a letter, you can always write a nice message and send it to them
- Take some time to tell them

PRAY

Spend some time in prayer saying thank you to God for everything he has given you. Thank God for those people around you who you are grateful for and ask him to help you find ways to show them how grateful you are to them.