



Thanksgiving for Family and Friends



Explore the blessings of family and friends through Scripture, fostering gratitude and deeper connections in this 5-day study on thanksgiving.



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Introduction

Holidays are special moments that draw families and friends together, offering opportunities to celebrate, reflect, and give thanks. **Thanksgiving** is a time to intentionally pause and recognize the blessings that enrich our lives, especially the people closest to us. *Family and friends* often shape our experiences, provide support, and reflect God's love in tangible ways.

This 5-day Bible study invites you to explore what Scripture says about gratitude, the beauty of relationships, and how to cultivate a heart of thanksgiving. Each day, we will dive into God's Word to discover insights that will help you appreciate and honor your loved ones, even amidst the busyness and challenges of life. As you journey through these devotions, be encouraged to open your heart in prayer, reflect deeply, and journal your personal thoughts and prayers.

Whether you're gathered around a table or connecting from afar, this study aims to deepen your gratitude and inspire meaningful expressions of love. Let us enter this holiday season with thankful hearts, celebrating the gift of relationships crafted by God himself. May you feel His presence as you cherish family and friends during this special time. 🍁 🙏





Day 1: 🦃 Gratitude for God's Gift of Family



Day 1:  Gratitude for God's Gift of Family

Your Verse

Psalm 127:3 – "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Ephesians 6:1 – "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."*
- *Proverbs 17:17 – "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*



Day 1: 🍷 Gratitude for God's Gift of Family

Devotional: Recognizing Family as God's Gift

Family is a divine blessing. Psalm 127:3 reminds us that our family members, especially children, are a heritage and reward from God. This truth calls us to view our family not just as people we live with but as precious gifts from our Creator. In the holiday season, it's easy to get caught up in preparation or stress, but taking a moment to thank God for these relationships is foundational to true thanksgiving.

Often, family dynamics come with challenges, yet Scripture encourages us to honor and love our relatives. Ephesians 6:1 calls children to obey parents, emphasizing the importance of respect within the family. Proverbs 17:17 highlights the steadfast love found in friends and brothers, urging us to cherish that support network. Whether family by blood or spiritual family, these connections are meant for nurturing and encouragement.

This Thanksgiving, consider how you can more intentionally recognize family as a gift. Reflect on the ways your relatives have been a blessing and a support through your life's journey. Let gratitude shape your heart and actions today.



Day 1:  Gratitude for God's Gift of Family

Reflect and Apply

1. How do I currently view my family—as a blessing, a challenge, or both?

2. In what ways can I express gratitude to God for each family member?

3. Are there relationships I need to mend or strengthen during this holiday?



Day 1:  Gratitude for God's Gift of Family

Journaling Prompts

1. List three ways God has blessed you through your family.

2. Write a letter of gratitude to a family member.

3. Describe a family memory that fills you with thankfulness.



Day 1: 🏠 Gratitude for God's Gift of Family

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for the gift of family. Help me to see each person as a blessing from You. Teach me to appreciate and love them well, especially during this season of thanksgiving. Soften my heart where there may be hurt, and guide me toward reconciliation and joy. May my words and actions reflect Your grace. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏❤️🏠🍂





Day 2: 🥰 Celebrating Friends as Chosen Family



Day 2: 😊 Celebrating Friends as Chosen Family

Your Verse

John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 18:24 - "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*
- *Ecclesiastes 4:9 - "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."*



Day 2: 😊 Celebrating Friends as Chosen Family

Devotional: Honoring Friends as God's Treasure

While family is often given by birth, **friends are family we choose**. The love and loyalty shared in true friendships reflect the heart of God's own love. John 15:13 captures the ultimate expression of friendship—self-sacrificial love. This radical example calls us to cultivate deep, meaningful connections.

Proverbs 18:24 reminds us that a true friend is closer than a brother, someone who stands by us faithfully. Ecclesiastes 4:9 adds wisdom about partnership: two people working together can achieve more and find greater joy. The holidays offer a perfect season to acknowledge these special friends and the role they play in our lives.

Think about friends who have been your support, encouragement, or refuge. This Thanksgiving, celebrate the gift of friendship as an extension of God's family. Share words of appreciation, offer kindness, and reach out to those who may be lonely. Friendships enrich our lives and bring joy to God's heart.



Day 2: 😊 Celebrating Friends as Chosen Family

Reflect and Apply

1. Who in my life exemplifies sacrificial love and friendship?

2. How can I deepen my friendships during this holiday season?

3. Am I a friend who supports and loves with God's heart?



Day 2: 😊 Celebrating Friends as Chosen Family

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a friend who has impacted your life.

2. List ways you can show appreciation to your friends.

3. Reflect on how God has used friendship to bless you.



Day 2: 😊 Celebrating Friends as Chosen Family

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the gift of friends. Help me to love them sacrificially and to be a source of support and encouragement. Bring new friendships if needed, and strengthen current ones. May I reflect Your love in all my relationships this holiday. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 💛💖✨🙏





Day 3: Thankfulness Rooted in God's Provision



Your Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Philippians 4:6 – "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*
- *Psalms 100:4 – "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."*



Devotional: Choosing Gratitude Amidst All Circumstances

Thanksgiving is not only about the gifts or gatherings themselves—it is fundamentally about an attitude rooted in God's ongoing provision. Paul instructs believers in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to give thanks *in* all circumstances, signaling that thanksgiving is a choice and a spiritual discipline.

Philippians 4:6 reminds us to bring everything to God in prayer, accompanied by thanksgiving. When we intentionally thank God, it helps us shift focus from worries to faith. Psalm 100:4 invites us to enter God's presence with thanksgiving and praise, framing thanksgiving as a way to worship and acknowledge God's goodness.

During the holiday season, challenges or unmet expectations can dull our joy. However, by grounding our gratitude in God's faithful provision—seen in daily breath, relationships, and grace—we find peace and joy that surpass circumstances. Let your heart turn to God first, giving Him thanks, and watch thanksgiving transform your entire experience.



Reflect and Apply

1. How do I respond to difficult circumstances during holidays?

2. What does it mean to give thanks in all situations?

3. How can prayer with thanksgiving change my perspective?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a challenging situation and what you can thank God for within it.

2. List specific ways God has provided for you this year.

3. Describe how thanksgiving affects your relationship with God.



Day 3: 📖 Thankfulness Rooted in God's Provision

Prayer for Today

Dear God, thank You for Your constant provision. Teach me to have a heart of thanksgiving in every circumstance. Help me to trust You, pray with gratefulness, and embrace Your peace. May my attitude reflect Your faithfulness daily. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏 ✨ 🕊️ ❤️





Day 4: Cultivating a Spirit of Generosity



Your Verse

2 Corinthians 9:7 – "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Acts 20:35 – "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*
- *Luke 6:38 – "Give, and it will be given to you."*



Devotional: Joyful Giving as Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is closely linked with generosity—not only of goods but of time, compassion, and love. Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 9:7 emphasize that giving should flow from a joyful heart, not obligation or pressure. This attitude reflects God’s generous nature and invites us to mirror His character.

Jesus taught in Acts 20:35 that it is more blessed to give than to receive. This reverses worldly values and challenges us to find joy in blessing others. Luke 6:38 further promises that generous giving leads to abundant blessings in return—not necessarily material, but spiritual and relational.

As you celebrate with family and friends this season, consider how generosity can be lived out in your relationships. Small acts of kindness, listening attentively, or sharing resources are ways to embody Christ’s love. A spirit of generosity enriches both giver and receiver, strengthening bonds and glorifying God.



Reflect and Apply

1. Do I give cheerfully or out of obligation?

2. How can I show generosity to family and friends this season?

3. In what ways has generosity blessed my life?



Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a time when giving brought you joy.

2. Plan a generous act to perform during the holidays.

3. Write about how generosity reflects God's love.



Day 4: 🍷 Cultivating a Spirit of Generosity

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me cultivate a joyful and generous heart. Teach me to give freely and cheerfully to those around me. May my generosity reflect Your love and bring blessing to my family and friends. Guide my actions to honor You this holiday season. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🎁❤️🙏✨





Day 5: ✨ Reflecting God's Love in Relationships



Day 5: ✨ Reflecting God's Love in Relationships

Your Verse

Colossians 3:14 - "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Supporting Scriptures

- *1 John 4:19 - "We love because he first loved us."*
- *Romans 12:10 - "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*



Day 5: ✨ Reflecting God's Love in Relationships

Devotional: Love as the Foundation for Thanksgiving

At the heart of thanksgiving for family and friends lies **God's perfect love**. Colossians 3:14 reminds us that love binds everything together in unity. Without love, our efforts at gratitude can feel empty or forced.

1 John 4:19 teaches that our ability to love springs from God's initiating love toward us. This is a profound truth for cultivating thanksgiving—it is not based on how others love us but on how God loved us first. Romans 12:10 exhorts believers to be devoted and honor one another above themselves, highlighting the practical outworking of love in relationships.

As you finish this study, ask God to fill your heart with His love, so you can genuinely appreciate and bless family and friends. Let love be the foundation of all your thanksgiving expressions. When love leads, your relationships will experience deeper unity and joy, reflecting God's presence in your home and heart.



Day 5: ✨ Reflecting God's Love in Relationships

Reflect and Apply

1. How does God's love inspire my gratitude for others?

2. In what ways can I demonstrate love to my family and friends?

3. What barriers exist to loving others fully, and how can I overcome them?



Day 5: ✨ Reflecting God's Love in Relationships

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe how God first showed love to you.

2. Write ways to honor loved ones above yourself this holiday.

3. Reflect on how love changes the way you practice thanksgiving.



Day 5: ✨ Reflecting God's Love in Relationships

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for loving me first. Fill my heart with Your love so I may love others deeply and authentically. Help me to honor and cherish my family and friends, reflecting Your unity and grace. Let love be the foundation of all my thanksgiving. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* ❤️ 🙏 ✨ 😊





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