

S.A.F.E. Homes



“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

Colossians 3: 15

Gratitude

Have you ever heard the phrase, ‘attitude of gratitude’? The word *attitude* can be described as our behavioral response to how we think or feel about something or someone. Merriam Webster’s Dictionary defines *gratitude* as, “the state of being grateful: thankfulness.”

The Bible shares a wonderful story with us of one man’s ‘attitude of gratitude.’ Matthew chapter 17, verses 11-19 tells of the ten lepers, whom Jesus healed. Leprosy is a disease of the skin and nerves which leaves horrible scarring. It can even leave a person’s body disfigured. They went their way after being healed, but only one of them was grateful enough to return to Jesus and thank Him for the miracle in his life. Verse 15 says, “with a loud voice [he] glorified God.” He was so excited about his healing, yet he did not forget to show his thankfulness by praising God. He did so loudly!

Can you think of a time when you were so thankful it was easy to express your gratitude to God, a family member, or friend? Were you ever so excited you didn’t care who heard or saw you expressing your thankfulness? That is what the leper did that day. Jesus was so moved by the leper’s show of gratitude that He told him, “Arise, go thy way. Thy faith hath made thee whole.” Because of the leper’s gratitude, Jesus didn’t just heal him of the leprosy. He restored his body, completely healing even the physical scars the leprosy had left! There are wonderful blessings we receive when we practice having an attitude of gratitude!

Family Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I am so very blessed. Forgive me when I fail to give thanks for what you have already done for me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*



Includes
Family
Activities



Want more?
Scroll down for
Bonus Pages

Looking



Inward

Someone has said, “When we choose not to focus on what is missing from our lives but are grateful for the abundance that is present, we experience a little heaven on earth.” Have everyone stand in a circle. Toss a ball from one person to another. As each one receives the ball, he/she must tell one thing that they are grateful for. It doesn’t matter how many times a person catches the ball, because this game could go on and on! Don’t forget the everyday things like electricity, running water, and enough food. Imagine life without them and then be grateful for your abundance!

Let’s talk

We do things everyday that may seem routine, but are very much appreciated. Everyone should list a reason they are thankful for each family member. Discuss ways you can show them your gratitude. We may be surprised at how much everyday tasks are valued.

We should be thankful throughout the year. What better way to express our gratitude than to bless someone else. Make a ‘Giving Thanks’ Jar. Collect as much spare change and/or dollars as possible between now and Christmas. Have a family meeting and decide if you’re going to make a special offering to the church, donate to a local agency, or a family in need.

Looking



Outward

Additional Challenges

Hannah made a vow to the Lord if He would answer her prayer. Her attitude of gratitude stayed true to her promise. Let's review Hannah's thankfulness in 1 Samuel 1.

The Bible says Hannah was in bitterness of soul. Why?

And she _____ a vow, and said, O _____ of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the _____ of thine handmaid, and _____ me, and not _____ thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a _____, then I will give him unto the LORD all the _____ of his _____, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

(Complete the sentences)

Hannah was a woman of...

She poured out...

Then _____ answered and said, Go in _____: and the God of _____ grant thee thy _____ that thou hast _____ of him.

How was Hannah after her prayer meeting?

The Bible says the Lord remembered Hannah. What did she name the baby? Why?

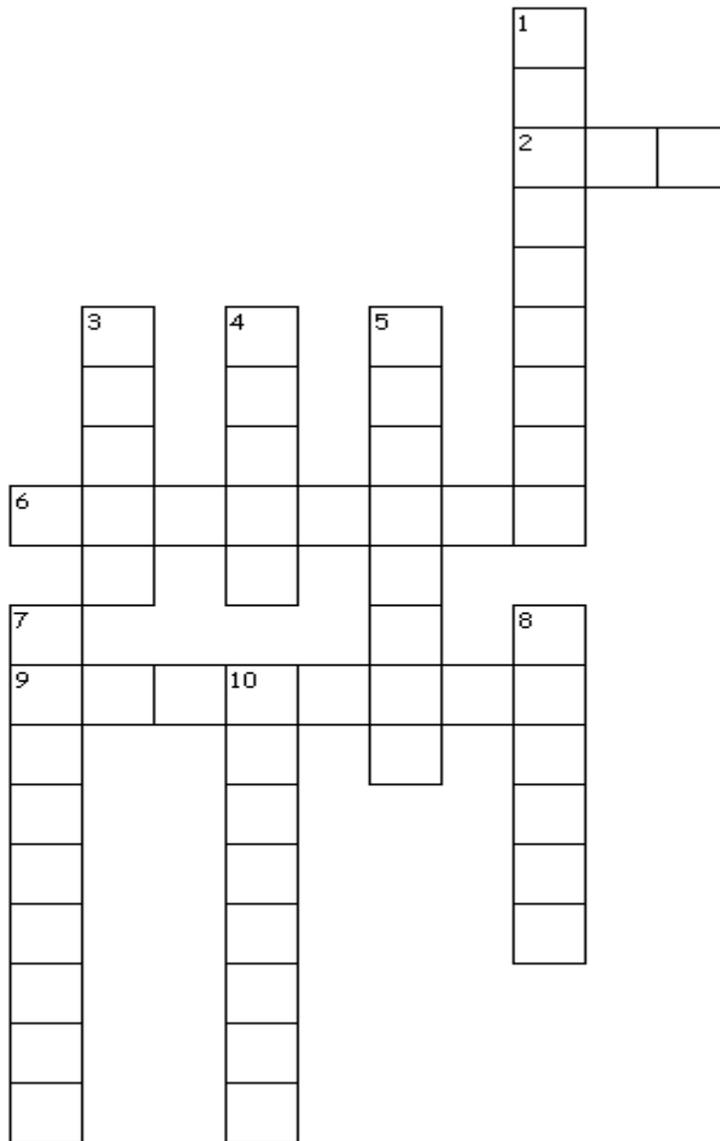
Why didn't Hannah go with her husband for the yearly sacrifice?

And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul _____, my lord, I am the _____ that stood by _____ here, _____ unto the LORD.

How did she express her gratitude to the Lord for answering her prayer?

How many years was he to live in the temple?

Puzzle Page



Across

2. Only ___ returned to Jesus to thank Him
6. Jesus ___ his body
9. Attitude is a behavioral ___

Down

1. With a loud voice he ___ God!
3. Jesus was ___ by the leper's gratitude
4. The leper's ___ made him whole
5. Leprosy leaves horrible ___
7. Webster's dictionary defines grateful as the state of being ___
8. Matthew chapter 17 tells the story of the 10 ___
10. Even the ___ scars were gone!

Start each Day
With a
grateful
HEART