

# S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



**"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalm 100:4**

## Thank you, Jesus!

When you are making a list of things you want for that scrumptious Thanksgiving meal this year, don't forget to add a heaping portion of Thankfulness! So many times, we get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays that we forget what we are actually celebrating. Thanksgiving was originally intended as a religious day of feasting and celebration to thank God for his constant protection and provision.

Think of all the things that we have to be thankful to Jesus for. Freedom, the Word, Family, Homes, Food, Clothing, Truth, Church, Salvation, Godly leadership, and the list could go on and on. It seems that, even with so much to be thankful for, our human nature still tends to war against a feeling of gratitude and thankfulness. It is so easy to slip into a habit of taking God, His blessings, and others around us for granted.

In Luke 17: 11-19, we see this lack of gratitude in action when Jesus encounters a group of ten lepers. When they lifted up their voices and cried for mercy from this dreadful disease, his response was to tell them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they ran, they were cleansed. After so great a miracle, only one man returned to throw himself at Jesus' feet with thankfulness. Jesus responded, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?'

It doesn't matter the circumstances or your feelings in a situation. It doesn't matter if you don't feel like being thankful. What does matter is that we have been commanded in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

**Family Prayer: Lord, help me to remember to be thankful in all things. Help me to never take for granted the blessings that you constantly let flow in my life. Let me represent a spirit of Thankfulness to those around me. In Jesus' name!**



Includes  
Family  
Activities



Want more?  
Scroll down for  
Bonus  
Pages

## Family Activities



I'm thankful!



For your Thanksgiving dinner, prepare some special placemats.

Earlier in the week, give each family member a paper placemat and craft supplies. Decorate the placemats in a way that shows what each person is most thankful for. Younger ones may draw pictures if desired. It will make a colorful and touching tribute for your meal!

### Let's talk!

The Thanksgiving holiday is a great time for a family discussion on gratitude. Discuss ways that both inside and outside your home you can demonstrate thankfulness and gratitude.

The upcoming holidays are usually a very exciting time within a family. Keep in mind that there are some individuals that consider this time of year very isolating and lonely. Take a look around and try to involve these individuals in your family's festivities whenever possible. You just might make a huge difference in someone's life.

Looking



**Additional Challenges**

The Bible offers many examples of thankfulness, both given and not properly given

For example:

- Read Romans 1:21. Notice how when they knew God, they didn't \_\_\_\_\_ Him as God, neither were they \_\_\_\_\_, so their foolish hearts became darkened.

- Read Luke 17:11-19. This was one of our lesson points. Why do you suppose that only one of the ten came back to give thanks to God?

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- Read I Thessalonians 5:18. Jesus said that 'in' everything give thanks, notice that he didn't say 'for' everything. What is the difference?

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- Read Psalm 100:4. David had suffered some losses during his reign. Why do you think he was still able to say these words?

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- Read Acts chapter 16. Even when cast into prison, Paul and Silas were still able to lift their voices in praise and maintain a spirit of Thankfulness. Why do you suppose they were able to do this?

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Living a life of Thankfulness isn't just the right thing to do, it is a direct command from God. We need to learn to be thankful in every situation and circumstance. Put a new spirit of Thankfulness in your life each day, and you'll be amazed how much better each situation looks.

**Acrostic poem**

*For each letter, write something that you are thankful for that starts with that letter*

**T** \_\_\_\_\_

**H** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

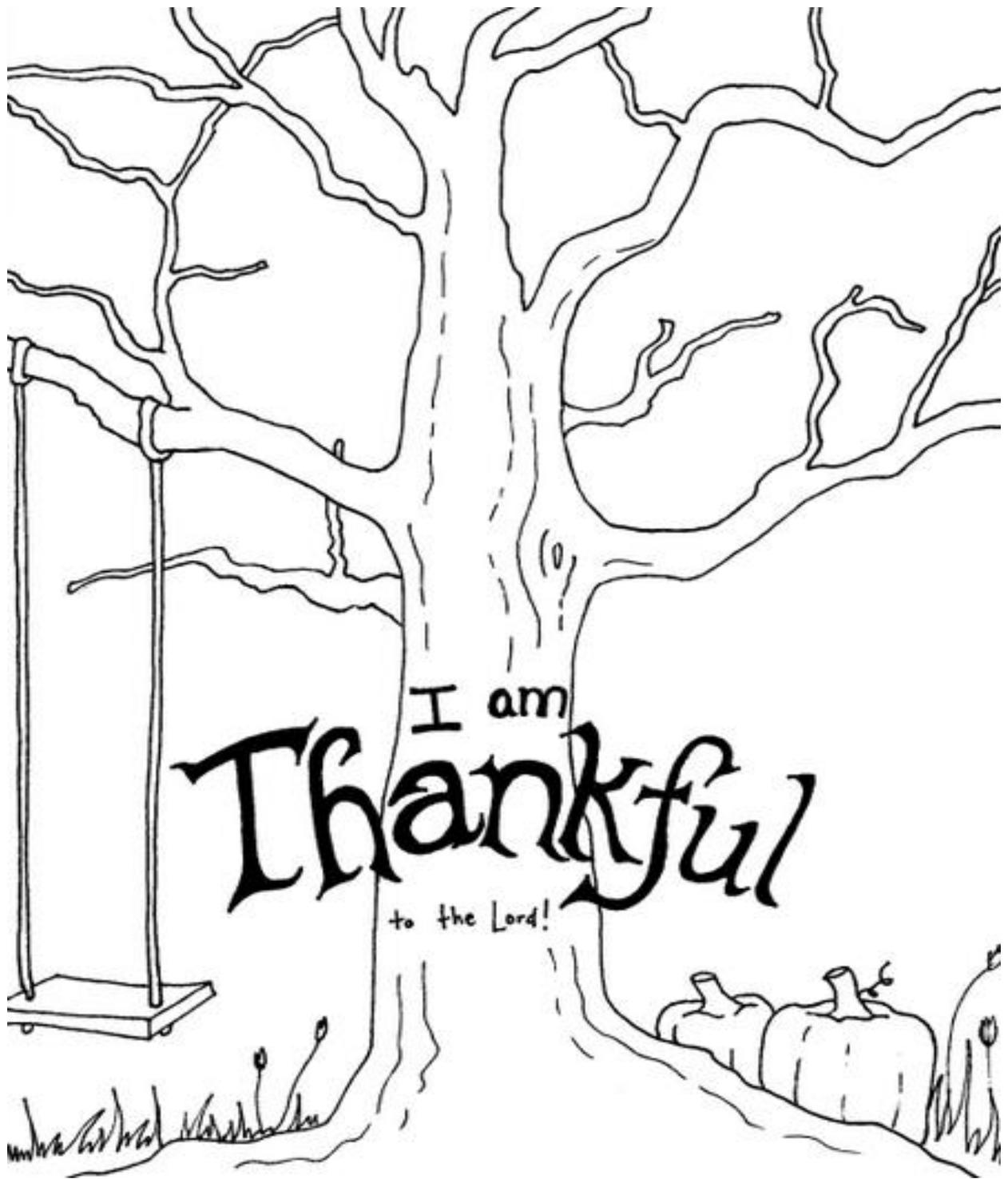
**N** \_\_\_\_\_

**K** \_\_\_\_\_

**F** \_\_\_\_\_

**U** \_\_\_\_\_

**L** \_\_\_\_\_



I am  
**Thankful**  
to the Lord!