

November Bible Reading Plan: A Posture of Giving Thanks

A posture of thanksgiving retunes our hearts towards gratitude to God, worship of God, and joy in God. I need more of this in my life. What about you? I need giving thanks to become a regular rhythm in my life, rather than an occasional add-on. For that reason, I'm hoping to not only eat pumpkin pie to the glory of God this November, but I also want to cultivate the practice of giving thanks.

My proposal is to take a 30-day challenge to cultivate a heart of gratitude and to integrate the rhythm of giving thanks. The goal is to both meditate on the Bible's emphasis of giving thanks and intentionally practice it. Our objective isn't only to be thankful for God's gifts but to grow in loving and knowing God as the giver of every gift. The Challenge consists of a few elements for each day. If this four-part challenge seems overwhelming, pick 2-3 items on this list and run with it.

- **Read and meditate on the Bible verses about giving thanks.** See the 30-day list in the table beside this text.
- As you read from God's Word about gratitude, **include a prayer of thanksgiving to God** for something you've learned about who God is, what he's done for you, or the gifts He's given to you.
- During the day, **intentionally look for things God is doing for which you can give thanks.** Or think how you can give thanks in each circumstance (Eph 5:20). At the end of the day, either as you eat supper or as you go to bed, include giving thanks not only for God's provision of your meal but for specifics from the day. This doesn't always have to be directly "spiritual." One day you might thank God for the forgiveness given through Christ and the next day you might thank God for good football. Not all gifts are equally valuable, but all gifts can be a source of thanksgiving.
- **Thank one person each day** for something they have done for you or something you appreciate about them. An attitude of gratitude must be cultivated, both in our human relationships and in our relationship with God.

Reading Plan

The passages focus on gratitude and thanksgiving. As you read them, notice how God is being thanked, what he's being thanked for, how that gratitude is expressed, and the results of giving thanks. Let it lead you into seeing God at work in your own life and thanking him for it.

| Day | Passage/s |
|--------|--|
| Day 1 | Psalms 136 |
| Day 2 | Psalms 9:1-14 |
| Day 3 | Luke 17:11-19 |
| Day 4 | 1 Chronicles 16:8-36 |
| Day 5 | 1 Chronicles 29:10-22 |
| Day 6 | Colossians 1:3, 12; 2:7 Colossians 3:15-17; 4:2 |
| Day 7 | Philippians 4:4-9 |
| Day 8 | Psalms 28 |
| Day 9 | Luke 22:14-23 |
| Day 10 | Psalms 30 |
| Day 11 | John 6:11, 23; 11:41 |
| Day 12 | Colossians 1:3-14 |
| Day 13 | Daniel 2:17-23; 6:10 |
| Day 14 | Psalms 95 |
| Day 15 | Psalms 100 |
| Day 16 | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 |
| Day 17 | 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 |
| Day 18 | Psalms 104 |
| Day 19 | Jeremiah 33:1-11 |
| Day 20 | Psalms 107:1-22 |
| Day 21 | Isaiah 12 |
| Day 22 | Psalms 118 |
| Day 23 | 1 Corinthians 15:35-57 |
| Day 24 | Psalms 145 |
| Day 25 | Acts 27:33-38, John 6:11 1 Timothy 4:3 |
| Day 26 | Psalms 138 |
| Day 27 | Luke 2:27-38 |
| Day 28 | Romans 6:15-23 |
| Day 29 | Psalms 147 |
| Day 30 | Revelation 4:1-11, 7:9-17 |

Faith Practices for your family to aid in helping you live as generous disciples of Christ.

- **God's Story:** Regularly read and study the Bible to *personally* learn more about God.
- **Learn. Teach:** Share God's Story with one another, using age appropriate Bibles, storybooks and technology.
- **Caring Conversation:** Share highs and lows and find God's Story in one another's stories.
- **Mealtimes:** Regularly eat meals together – with all “tech” turned off.
- **Serve:** Joyfully serve one another and regularly host guests for a meal in our home.
- **Pray:** Pray at mealtime, bedtime, sick time, car time, school time, anytime and anywhere.
- **Share:** Easily and joyfully share possessions and wealth with those outside this household and family.
- **Care:** Take deliberate action to care for our neighbor, our community and the earth.
- **Identity:** Talk and act in ways that reflect our creator God who sent us Jesus to follow.
- **Cross+Generational Relationships:** Create opportunities for friendships and caring relationships with faith-filled people of all ages.
- **Worship:** Regularly gather to worship with a community of faith.
- **Bless:** Practice forgiveness and grace. Affirm and celebrate one another's gifts. Live joyfully and share freely.
- **Music:** Sing, play or listen to music that praises God and brings joy, peace and healing in our lives.
- **Amazed and Awed:** Live with a sense of gratefulness every day for God's grace and generosity.



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Connections... share your good news with Bethany!

Items for the December newsletter are due to the church office by Monday, November 22, 2021.

Please email an announcement to bethanyxtell@gmail.com or provide a hard copy of your announcement to the church office. Submissions may be edited due to space available.

Did we miss your exciting news? If so, please allow us to publish your account in the December issue of Connections. We are only able to publish items of which we have been made aware.