

1 Thessalonians 5:18

CSB – give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

ESV – give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

KJV – In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you

As a family read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

List three things that this scripture teaches us to do:

1. Be joyful – Rejoice.
2. Pray.
3. Give thanks.

Let each family member share something that brings them joy and for which they are thankful. Have each family member say a one sentence prayer to God. This prayer can be something they are praising God for, or it could be a request.

Discuss: There are sad things that happen to us that we are not thankful for. In fact, we wish they did not happen to us at all. God is telling us here that we can be thankful in all circumstances because He helps us no matter what is happening. We live on earth where things are not perfect and where bad things can and do happen. But the really great thing is that God’s will is for us to trust Him in all of our circumstances. He will use all the things that happen in our lives to grow and shape us into who He wants us to be.

Read Romans 8:28. Discuss how God uses everything in our life, the good and the bad, to work together for our good. So, thank Him. You can trust Him to work out His will for you.

Ephesians 2:8

CSB – For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift –

ESV – For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

KJV – For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

As Christmas Day approaches, there are probably beautifully wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree at your house.

Ask each family member: Do you like to receive gifts? If someone were to give you a gift and then ask you for \$5 for it, would it really be a gift?

No. If you have to pay for it or do something to receive it, it isn’t a gift. When someone gives you a gift, it doesn’t cost you anything. It doesn’t come with any conditions. All you have to do is accept it. That is what makes it a gift.

Now ask: What is the best gift you have ever received?

It is fun to think back on wonderful gifts you have been given. Now, let’s talk about the greatest gift ever given.

Any idea what that gift is?

It is the gift of eternal life. The gift of God. It is given to anyone to wants to receive it. Read John 3:16. The greatest gift of all is for you and me!

When someone gives you a gift, it is never polite to ask, "How much did it cost?" But in this case, the Bible tells us how much God's gift costs us – nothing. It is a gift from Him! God gave us eternal life through His son, Jesus. None of us can earn it. It is a gift!

As you enjoy giving and receiving gifts this Christmas season, remember God's greatest gift to us – Jesus!

1 Peter 4:9

CSB – Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

ESV – Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

KJV – Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

Ask, “What the word “hospitable” mean?” It relates to the word hospital and can mean taking care of others’ needs and making guests feel comfortable, welcomed, and served while they are with us.

There are many stories in the Bible that show us examples of hospitality. Read Luke 10:38-42 to see how Martha and Mary, sisters, who were close friends, were fantastic examples of hospitality. Each had different strengths and talents. They did much to provide for Jesus and His followers during His ministry.

Over the holidays, you will have many times to show hospitality to others, and you may be the recipient of hospitality from your friends and family.

Let’s brainstorm ways we can be hospitable –

Your list might include:

1. Always take coats and other belongings from your guests and put them away.
2. Always let guests go first.
3. Always direct guests to the seating or play area.
4. Always let guests choose the activities.
5. Always be attentive to the guests needs.
6. Always share!

Showing hospitality is really showing love to others. During this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, when we have guests or are guests in others' homes, remember to show hospitality (love) to others without complaining!