

Greetings from Ceresco Baptist Church!

Ceresco Messenger, November 2019

6 Bible Stories About Real Thanksgiving

With Black Friday looming, I've been drawn into so many sale ads that I am almost more eager for the post-Thanksgiving shopping than Thanksgiving itself. Our culture fuels this fire by inundating us with ads. Who's got the best prices on what? Ooooooh and with a sale like that, who doesn't need ALL the clothes and a new TV?

Thanksgiving itself almost gets lost in our "more, more, more" culture. And when we do think of Thanksgiving it's just an American holiday with historical origins and gluttonous implications. But honestly, if we allowed it to, Thanksgiving could put a spotlight on a wonderful and crucial part of Christian life. With all of the festivities and the time off from school, it's a great time for adults and children alike to consider what God meant to communicate to us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV).

This week, consider slowing the holiday rush down to consider what biblical thanksgiving really looks like for you and your family. As you do so, here are a few stories to dwell on for yourself and that you can tell to help your children visualize and understand what giving thanks to God can look like.

MARY'S GRATITUDE FOR JESUS - LUKE 1

There's no doubt that Mary knew the weight of her circumstances as a pregnant virgin. And yet, as she realizes that she is pregnant with the son of God, she rejoices in the blessing of being His chosen vessel. Her choice to view her circumstances as a blessing when the world probably would have told her otherwise is an example to Christians throughout history. Sometimes the blessings God gives us aren't easy to handle, but we should be thankful nonetheless.

A GRATEFUL SINNER - LUKE 7:36-50

This passage is the story of the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair and an entire bottle of expensive ointment. It's filled with great talking points about not only our unworthiness of our greatest blessing – salvation – but also how lavishly Jesus deserves our thanks.

A LEPER THANKFUL FOR HEALING - LUKE 17:12-19

God takes notice of our praise and thanks. When Jesus healed 10 lepers, only one returned to thank Him. Although all lepers were physically healed, Jesus pronounced this leper further healed by His faith, suggesting that our gratitude impacts our soul-level healing and closeness to God (a notion supported by how many times we are commanded to give thanks or given examples of it in the Bible). This is a great story to teach your children the importance of expressing gratitude, not just feeling it.

JEHOSHAPHAT GIVES THANKS UNDER PRESSURE - 2 CHRONICLES 20

Jehoshaphat's is an example of giving thanks for God's faithfulness, even when you're facing impossible odds, and even before you see God show up. This story demonstrates how our worship and praise before our prayers are fully answered are an act of faith in gratitude. While you may want to spare your kids the gorier details, this is also a very exciting story for kids (especially boys).

6 Bible Stories About Real Thanksgiving (concluded)

HANNAH GIVES THANKS FOR SAMUEL - 1 SAMUEL 1

When we wait a long time for a blessing or answer to prayer, it's easy to feel thankful, but it's also easy to cling too tightly to our blessing. Hannah, however, showed us that true, deep gratitude always dedicates the credit to God. When her prayers for a child are finally answered, she is faithful in dedicating her son, Samuel, to God. While we may not always have to give our blessings away, we should be ready to do with them whatever God asks of us, no matter how long we've waited.

DANIEL GIVES THANKS, DESPITE THE COST - DANIEL 6

While it isn't very common for Americans to have their lives threatened because of their faith, Daniel gives us an extreme example of the power of our faithfulness and gratitude to God. Despite knowing that the Satraps were trying to ensnare him, he chose to give thanks to God. Ultimately, his choice to worship and thank God despite the cost became the incredible testimony and Bible story we commonly refer to as "Daniel and the Lion's Den."

Beyond these stories thanksgiving is a major theme throughout the Bible. From the Psalms to Jesus' regular habit of giving thanks to God, the Bible is a gold mine for making this secular holiday about worshipping God!

Bible Verses for Thanksgiving . . .

Colossians 3:17 New International Version (NIV) ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV) ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.

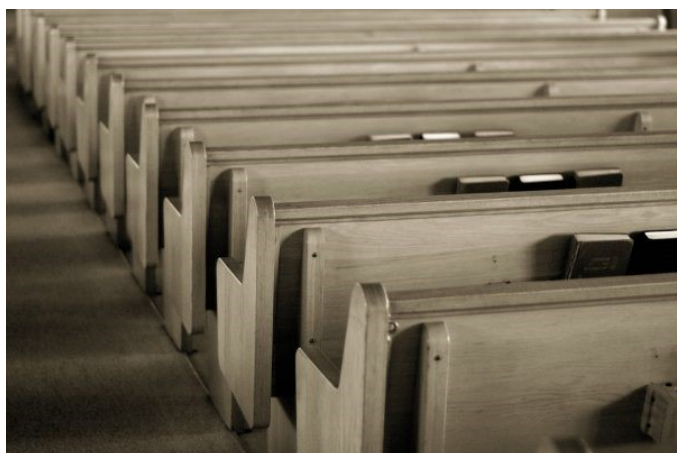
Psalms 9:1 I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Psalms 95:2-3 ² Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. ³ For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Family Fall Party: It was raining like crazy but the fire got roaring outside in the pit and the hot dogs got roasted. Thirty people enjoyed the hot dogs along with a bowl of chili and cider and doughnuts. The kids and adults enjoyed the games and Pastor Mary made the ceremonial "whack" at the piñata. Grandpa scarecrow sat very still on his bale of straw so pictures could be taken. After the fun was over, pumpkins were available for those that wanted to take one home. See ya next year!!!!



Thank you to those that handed out candy on Oct. 30th for our Trick or Treaters! We had more than enough treats for everyone! A safe, fun, warm celebration!



Church Attendance

Aug. 4 ~ 37, Aug. 11 ~ 34, Aug. 18 ~ 31,
 Aug. 25 ~ 39, Sep. 1 ~ 28, Sep. 8 ~ 33,
 Sep. 15 ~ 40, Sep. 22 ~ 38, Sep. 29 ~ 47,
 Oct. 6 ~ 40, Oct. 13 ~ 36, Oct. 20 ~ 37,
 Oct. 27 ~ 32.

Take A Moment To Thank A Veteran

When you see someone in a uniform,
Someone who serves us all,
Doing military duty,
Answering their country's call,

Take a moment to thank them
For protecting what you hold dear;
Tell them you are proud of them;
Make it very clear.

Just tap them on the shoulder,
Give a smile, and say,
"Thanks for what you're doing
To keep us safe in the USA!"

By Joanna Fuchs



VETERANS DAY



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Why?

Why did you leave home and friends,
comfort and safety,
to experience pain and hardship,
so I could be protected?
I don't know; but thank you.

Why did you put yourself in danger,
injury and death always a possibility,
so I could be free?
I don't know; but thank you.

Thank you, veteran.
Thank you!

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -- John F. Kennedy

"War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children." -- Jimmy Carter

"On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free." -- Dan Lipinski



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|--------|------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Nov 1 | Scott Chisholm | Dec 5 | Cindy Combs |
| Nov 2 | Barry Vavrina | Dec 7 | Mike Lutz |
| Nov 3 | Margie Cole | Dec 11 | Paige Holtz |
| Nov 3 | Alex Goodman | Dec 13 | Glennie Swann |
| Nov 5 | Lora Finch | Dec 14 | Pat Yost |
| Nov 6 | Devin Phelps | Dec 18 | Ryan Boysen |
| Nov 7 | Dick Halstead | Dec 19 | Bridger James Davis |
| Nov 10 | Ken Davis | Dec 19 | Scott Wood |
| Nov 10 | Jean King | Dec 21 | Rayna Sommers |
| Nov 11 | Travis Weeks | Dec 25 | Randy Cavinder |
| Nov 12 | Betty Halverson | Dec 26 | David Smith |
| Nov 12 | Tyler Thomas | Dec 27 | Candace Ivey |
| Nov 13 | Brad Gary | Dec 27 | John Paschen |
| Nov 16 | Mike McJunkin | Dec 28 | Donna Ruthruff |
| Nov 17 | Lisa Cavinder | Dec 30 | Viviana Anthony |
| Nov 17 | Jody Babcock | | |
| Nov 18 | Shirley Lawcock | | |
| Nov 21 | Brianne Holtz | | |
| Nov 24 | Bridget Holder | | |
| Nov 25 | Olive Derrick | | |
| Nov 26 | Roger Sommers | | |
| Nov 28 | Aneesa Tejada (Kidder) | | |
| Nov 29 | Bessie Ivey | | |

As I Grow Old

Poet: Arnold West

God, keep my heart attuned to laughter
 when youth is done;
 when all the days are gray days, coming after
 The warmth, the sun.
 God keep me then from bitterness, from grieving,
 When life seems cold;
 God keep me always loving and believing
 As I grow old.

Do you have a birthday or anniversary to add to these lists? Do you see one that should be removed?

Please send an email to cerescobaptist@gmail.com

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| 11/3 | Mike & Pam Lutz |
| 11/12 | Rick & Marcy Bonney |
| 11/15 | Art & Donna Ruthruff |
| 11/16 | Brian & Barb Gary |



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| Dec 20 | Richard & Kathy Straub |
| Dec 23 | Ken & Kay Davis |
| | DJ & Julie Holton |



Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 168 million shoeboxes to children in over 160 countries and territories. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

Last year we participated in the Operation Christmas Child project through Samaritan's Purse for the first time. It went so well, that we are going to do it again this year! Boxes and supplies will be available soon. You can pack as many boxes as you want. We do boxes for boys and boxes for girls. There are different age groups to pick from: 2-4 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years. Be thinking about whether or not you would like to participate this year, and what gender & age group you would like to do it for. There will be sheets of suggested gift ideas based on the gender and age group you select to help you decided what to include in the shoebox you pack.

If you are packing a box for a child, please return it to the church by our Family Night Thanksgiving Potluck on Wed., Nov. 20, 2019. Thank you!



November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>You are invited to the Installation Service of Pastor Katie Wallen at First Baptist Church Marshall at 2 pm on Sunday, November 10th.</p>					1	2
						Daylight Saving Time ends - set clocks back 1 hour tonight!
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion Sunday	Boy Scouts	Bible Study 10 am				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Veteran's Sunday FBC-Marshall Pastor Inst Svc	Veteran's Day Bells of Peace ring at 11:11 am	Bible Study 10 am	Martha Circle Meeting 6 pm			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Boy Scouts	Bible Study 10 am	Family Night Potluck 6:00 pm		Information for the December Messenger is due by noon. Anyone may contribute!	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fellowship Sunday, Bake Sale	Boy Scouts	Bible Study 10 am	Thanksgiving Eve Svc with FBC Marshall 6:00 pm	Have a Blessed Thanksgiving! Praise God!		Hanging of the Greens! 10-12 Luncheon afterwards

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews, Transitional Pastor

NEW Office Hours: Thursdays by appointment,
Fridays 1:00-4:30 pm, Saturdays 8:300-11:00 am.
Please call for an appointment!

Church: 269.964.9669

Cell: 313-303-3301

