

Around the Table

Week 2: “Giving Thanks”

Key Point: I will have an attitude of gratitude.

Key Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
(Psalm 107:1 NIV)

Opening Question:

Last week I asked you what your favorite food is.

Now tell me-- What is one of your least favorite foods to eat?

Parent:

I remember growing up. One of my least favorite foods to eat was _____.
I'm sure I complained a lot when my parents asked me to eat it!

The point is--it's not easy to be thankful. Especially for things we don't like.
Today's lesson is all about being thankful. Our Key Point says I will have an attitude of gratitude.

Family Question

First, what does it mean to have an attitude?

What do you think it means to have an attitude of gratitude?

Parent:

There is something that God wants from all of us. It doesn't cost any money. You can't order it online or buy it in the store. It's a pretty simple thing but often we forget it. It's a heart of thankfulness. There's a Bible Story in the book of Luke that talks reminds us of it.

Bible Story:

Reminder: The Bible is God's Word. It contains 100% truth.

This true story from the Bible takes place when Jesus was traveling through the land of Samaria and Galilee on his way to the city of Jerusalem--just before he died on the cross. **(Read Luke 17:11-19)**

Parent:

So these 10 men had leprosy. Do you know what leprosy is?

Leprosy is a disease that causes a person to have sores all over their body.

Leprosy was a very common disease in Jesus' day, and people who had leprosy were thought to be dirty and unclean. They were required to stay away from other people because of the fear that they might infect them with their disease.

It reminds me a little of what's happening now. You have no school right now and we're doing church at home because we want to be careful not to spread or catch any germs.

So because these men had leprosy, they could not come close to Jesus. So the 10 lepers called out to Jesus: "Jesus, Jesus, help us!" And Jesus said something that sounds a bit strange. He said "Go show yourselves to the priests." Why did he say that?

Well, in Jesus' day it was the law that the priest was the one to examine a person to see if they had leprosy or not. The priest was the only one who could pronounce them clean and allow them to go back to their families, homes, and friends. As the 10 lepers obeyed Jesus and went to find the priest, a crazy thing happened. They looked at their skin and their sores were gone!! When one of the lepers noticed that he had been healed he ran back to Jesus and fell at his feet and began to thank Jesus for what he had done.

Questions:

Why do you suppose the man ran all the way back to Jesus? Couldn't he have just walked? And why do you think the man bowed down at Jesus' feet? What does it tell you about how he felt inside?

Parent:

The Bible story finishes with Jesus looking at the man who returned and saying: “Didn’t I heal ten men? Then where are the other nine? It’s not that Jesus didn’t know where the other men were. He wanted to point out that only one man chose to return to show gratitude (thankfulness) for what he had done.

Bible Verse:

The verse that we’re going to learn reminds us to thank God for all he does for us. It also reminds us that God is always good and he loves us forever.

*Spend a few minutes learning the verse below together as a family.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1 NIV)

Family Activity:

**Purchase a piece of white poster board/pack of colorful markers from the store.*

At the top of the poster, write: *Our family is thankful to God for...*

Use the colorful markers to write down the different things your family is thankful to God for. Younger children especially will come up with basic things like food and clothes etc. That’s ok! But challenge them to think even deeper. To be thankful for specific attributes of God like his patience, forgiveness, etc. (If you have an older child who likes to draw or write--let them be the one who writes on the poster board.)

After you finish, take a few minutes to pray and thank God for how good and loving he is. Thank him for the things you wrote down. Encourage your child to pray out loud as well. Remind them that God cares about our hearts--he is not concerned with how fancy our prayers sound!

Hang the poster board somewhere in your house and let it serve as a constant reminder of how much we have to be grateful for.

Parent:

Finish by reminding your child that the more room we make in our hearts to be thankful to God, means there is that much less room for complaining and comparing!! (This is a HUGE life lesson for all of us.) Cultivating an attitude of gratitude is a choice. And we need God's help every day to do it.

Weekly Challenge:

Make an "attitude of gratitude" chart for your child. Challenge them to look for ways to express their thankfulness to God and others. Give them a sticker when you see or hear them do it. After they earn a certain number of stickers, reward them somehow.