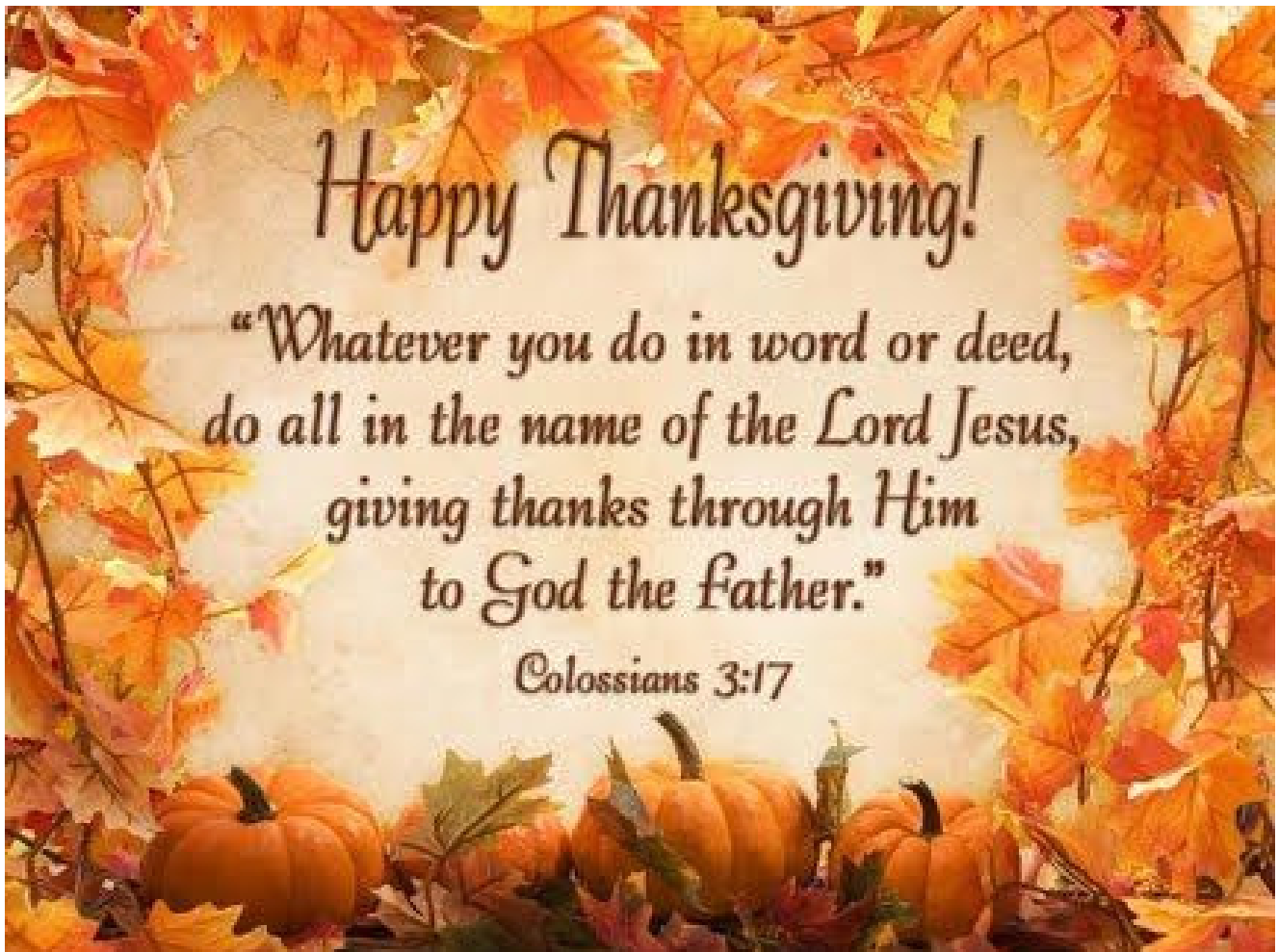


The Light - Junior Series

Lesson 135

Thankful for Jesus



2019

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Just tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you become a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



LESSON



Say, kids, "When you think about the Thanksgiving Holiday, what comes to mind? Today we are going to learn about true thanksgiving. First, let's start by thinking of all the things we are thankful for. You can even make a list on a piece of paper and save it so you can continue to add to the list as you become even more thankful in time.

Let's send up a prayer to God before we begin, okay? "Father, thank you for your son, Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins. And thank you for the many blessings you give us every day because of Him. Please give us understanding today as we learn what your Word says about thankfulness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

The bible tells us what we should be most thankful for. First, let's look at **Colossians 2:6-7**. "Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (7) having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith (practical daily sanctification), just as you were instructed, and overflowing with thankfulness."

When we realize what Jesus did for us on the cross...took our place, suffered the pain of sin, and paid the penalty for all our sins and the sins of the entire world, we will be faithful to God and choose to obey Him. This is true thankfulness from our hearts because we are so happy that Jesus did this for us!



Let's read **Psalm 136:1**. "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is lasts forever." Why should we be thankful to God? Because His love lasts forever. How do we know this promise is true? Because He sent His One and only Son, Jesus, to save us, be with us, and take care of us.

We should also be thankful because God gives us victory over sin and the world through Jesus! Read **1 Corinthians 15:57-58**. "...but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be faithful, immovable, always successful in the work of the Lord, knowing that your work is not in vain in the Lord."

God, our Father, does more than give us salvation and take care of us, He gives us daily victory over life's troubles, too. Because we are victors in Jesus, we never have to wonder if God will help us through our own troubles in this life. We have confidence that He will always be with us, and that should make us extremely thankful. We have victory through Jesus!

You know, kids, let's admit that it can be very hard to be thankful in the middle of difficulties. The Apostle Paul faced many difficulties and terrible trials, so we're going to discover how he remained thankful even when life was very hard for him.

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. (25) Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the sea. (26) I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen (the Jews), dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; (27) I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. (28) Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches." Not fun being the Apostle Paul, right, kids? Yes, indeed but Jesus brought Paul through all these terrible things and gave him strength to carry on by the Holy Spirit. Paul remained thankful because he chose obedience and faithfulness to Jesus no matter what happened to him. That's really hard to do but guess what? Paul couldn't do anything to help himself out of trouble...GOD DID IT FOR HIM!!!



Look at 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Rejoice always; (17) pray without stopping; (18) in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." No matter what we go through, prayer and rejoicing in God will help us be thankful. Paul faced terrible struggles, so we should ask the Holy Spirit to help us to follow his example of faithful dedication when we find ourselves in difficult situations.



Maybe you'd like to tell Jesus how grateful you are. Maybe even write Him a letter of thanks. This is a time to think about what Jesus did for us. Actually, every day we should be thankful...not just on the Thanksgiving holiday. Keep your letter in a place you can read it often as reminder to be thankful to God.

True thankfulness comes from knowing Jesus as our Savior and experiencing God's eternal love. No matter what we face, we can choose thankfulness because we have victory in Jesus Christ.



Another thing we must learn today is to also be thankful to God for giving us earthly blessings...of which there are so many. One of our greatest earthly blessings from God is our parents to care for us, so, please also remember to be thankful for your parents and family members. Families are a wonderful gift from God so be thankful to them and for them.



God also gave us material things, like food, clothing, friends, school, church, sport etc. Be grateful to Him because He has blessed us so much.



And of course, we must be thankful for all the spiritual things God has given us. Like God, Holy Spirit living inside us as believers, so we can be guided by Him to obey God and learn God's Holy Word. He also gave us Jesus to live inside, us too!! Jesus prays for us EVERYDAY! He's our brother and always will be!! He also gave us powerful prayer.



Because we understand what it means to be thankful to God, we should and can be thankful to others, too, especially those who brought us the Gospel of Jesus that saved us. Look at some of the Bible verses that teach this. Let's start with **Romans 1:8-9** that teaches that someone's faith leads you and others to Jesus. "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. (9) For God, whom I serve in my

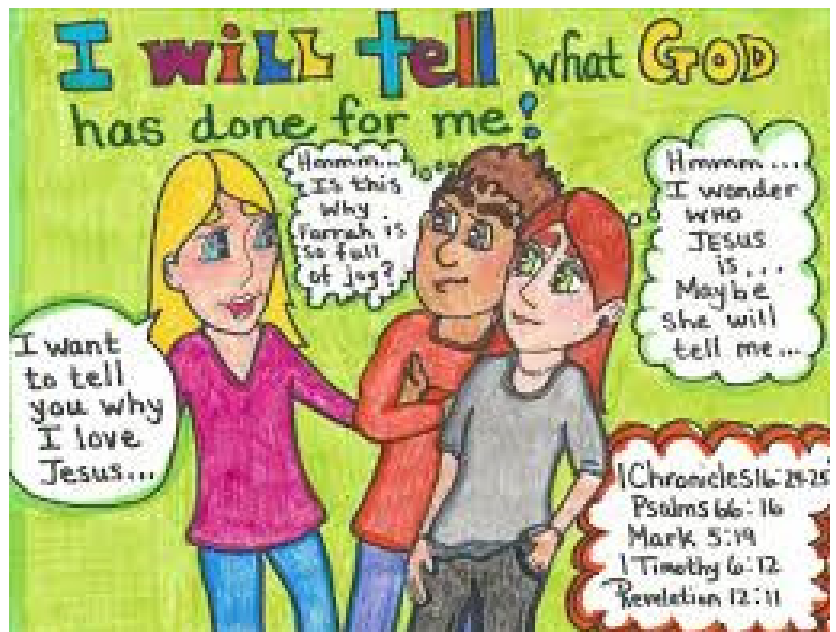
spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son..."

Romans 6:17 "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin (unbelievers), you became obedient from the heart (believed in Jesus)..." This shows your obedience to God when you believed in His Son.

When a person's faith and love points others to Christ: **Colossians 1:3-4**

"We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, (4) since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints..."

Philemon 1:3-5 "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (4) I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, (5) because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints..."



When their generosity and eagerness to serve leads others to obedience to believe in Jesus. **2 Corinthians 9:1-2** "For it is needless for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints; (2) for I know your readiness (wanting to give the Gospel to the unsaved), of which I boast about you to the Macedonians, namely, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them."

So, kids, why do you think it's important to tell others about Jesus? Because when you do, it not only gives them salvation if they believe, but it also encourages and strengthens them, and most importantly it gives great praise and glory to God and Jesus.

Do you think it's enough to say we're thankful and not show it in our actions? What can we do to show thankfulness? Let's look at **James 2:26**. "For just as the body without the spirit is dead (unbeliever), so also faith without works is dead (your practical sanctification or your everyday service to the Lord is useless)." Faith without serving the Lord and others is dead or useless. True thankfulness in our hearts is shown through our actions or our service to God and others. And if our hearts aren't thankful, then we can't truly serve God or others!



Thankfulness to God and others must be shown through our actions. **Jas 2:15-16** "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" When we humble ourselves and are obedient to God then we will be willing to express thankfulness to others by our service to others especially the family of believers in our local church. They are the body of Christ like you and they all have needs as you do. So, when your heart is in the right place...thankful...your actions to serving others will automatically follow your heart! True servants are thankful. Serve others and honor Jesus.



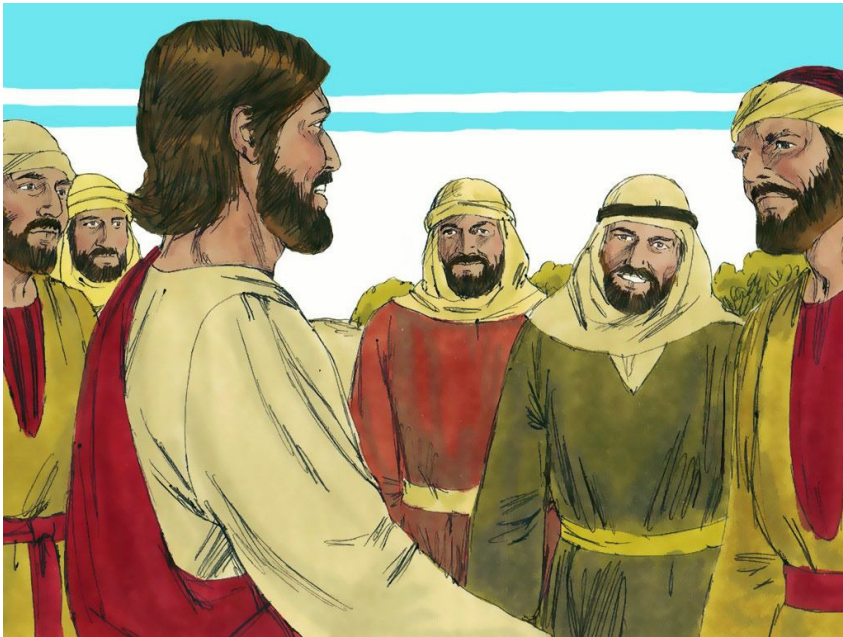
"Serve one another through love" (Gal. 5:13).

Teaching Picture Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet NTSE, Lesson 4 Bible Story Time

Jesus gave us the example of love and service by His washing of the disciples' feet. This teaches us about humility, thankfulness, and service, which all work together to give God glory. **John 13:4-5** "Jesus got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He tied it to Himself. (5) Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He had tied

around Himself."

What did Jesus do to serve his disciples? He washed their feet. Why did he do this? It was an example of humble service to mankind and His love for all of us. Jesus told the disciples in **John 13:7** that **"What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."** What had to happen before the disciples would really understand everything Jesus had done for them? His death on the cross, His burial, and His Resurrection and the Holy Spirit coming to live inside them. How is this similar for us? Because we don't understand everything either completely until we enter heaven and be present with the Lord.



Let's read Jesus' explanation of His washing their feet in **John 13:12-14**. **"So, when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? (13) You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. (14) If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.'" So**

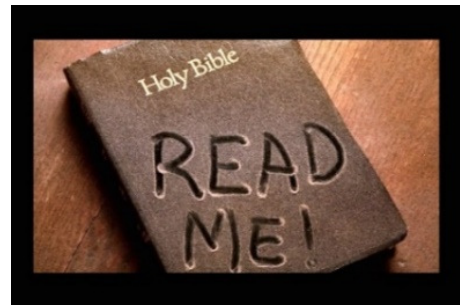
why do we serve? Because Jesus served. Because He gave us the **GREATEST GIFT of ALL TIME...HE SAVED US** from the penalty of sin and gave us **ETERNAL LIFE!** How can we show thankfulness for Jesus' example? Through our humble service. It is a privilege to serve Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Kids, thankfulness through service is a great way to honor him.

Let's end our lesson with thanksgiving for our relationship to Jesus, to others who serve us, and our opportunities to serve as God's representatives here on earth. Let's show unbelievers Jesus Christ by our love for one another and our actions.

We have a lot of reasons to be thankful! God gave us salvation through Jesus Christ and also gave us the Bible, God's holy Word and the Mind of Jesus to learn more about Him and the Holy Spirit who of course, teaches us God's Word. In addition, He provides for all the spiritual and physical needs in our lives. Thankfulness is a big part of our lives because God has lovingly given us so much in His Son.

Until next time, stay in God's Word...

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at
Lighthouse Bible Church.



Close in prayer: "Lord, thank you for our salvation and your love. Remind us to be thankful everyday no matter what we face. Lord, please use our actions to show our thankfulness to you. Help us to humbly serve others and be thankful as we serve them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

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