

# Gobble Up Gratitude

## Note for Parents

Gobble Up Gratitude is designed for families to incorporate faith into their fall family fun. This resource is to be used in the month of November. This month we will be focusing on showing gratitude to God for who He is and what He does for us. This resource includes the following:

- 4 Family Devotions (1 per week)
- 4 Games (1 per week)
- 4 Crafts (1 per week)
- 4 Snack Ideas (1 per week)

## When is a good time to do these activities each week?

- Use it on Saturday or Sunday and do all activities for that week in one day.
- Spread out the activities over the whole week. For example, you could read the devotion before school one morning. Then another day do the craft, next day game, next day create the snack.

Fall is a great time to start the habit of spending time together in God's Word as a family. Once you create this habit, your children will want to do it every day and will remind you if you miss a day! These habits will hopefully form in your children a love of God's Word that will stay with them throughout their lives. You are building a foundation of God and His love into your children by spending time together in His Word.

# Family Devotion

## Week 1 – Give Thanks for Everything

Let's start out this week by writing our Bible verse! I want you to fill in the blanks for this verse. So grab your Bible and look up 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (this verse is the NIV).

"Be \_\_\_\_\_ always; \_\_\_\_\_ continually; give \_\_\_\_\_ in all \_\_\_\_\_, for this is God's \_\_\_\_\_ for you in Christ \_\_\_\_\_."

This verse tells us to do 3 things that may seem impossible: be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. How is a person supposed to always be happy? How is a person supposed to pray all the time? How is a person supposed to give thanks to God in the good times and in the bad times? All those things seem impossible, don't they?

I believe that these verses that Paul has written are showing us how to live a life devoted to Christ. Will there be times in our lives that we will be sad? Absolutely. But we can be joyful in knowing that God is with us and will never leave us no matter what happens to us.

Can we pray every moment of the day? Probably not, but we can pray to God every single day. I believe Paul is helping us to see that prayer should be something we never forget to do. When we wake up (even before we get out of the bed), we can say a prayer and thank God that we are alive. When we are at school, we can pray and ask God to help us understand what we are learning. We can also ask God to help us be a good friend and treat others the way we want to be treated. When we are at home, we can ask God to give us patience with our brother or sister when they annoy us. We can ask God to help us obey our mom and dad even in times when we don't want to do something. And then when we go to bed, we can thank God for the day and ask Him to help us rest well as we sleep. This is how we can "pray continually", by remembering to pray many times throughout the day

And why should we thank God in all circumstances? There will be times in your life when things happen to you that you don't understand, or don't feel are right or fair, or even things that make you very sad. But Paul reminds us to give thanks for ALL things in ALL circumstances. Of course it's easy to thank God when things go

your way and life is good. But, it's a little more difficult to thank God in the hard times. I know that it will be hard to do, but we can remember the promise God gives us in Romans 8:28, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* So when things don't go your way or you're upset about something, remember to give thanks to God and remember that He works all things for good.

So this week, work on being thankful for all things. Remember to pray all throughout the day. And work on that smile of yours and remember to be joyful!

### **Prayer**

*Father God, thank You for the reminder to be joyful, to always pray, and to give thanks. Help me to remember that You are good and that You work all things for good. I am so grateful for all You have done for me, Lord. Amen.*

## **Family Devotion Activity - Gobble Up Gratitude Challenge**

For the month of November, you will be helping your "turkey" gobble up gratitude! Here's how it works:

First, you will hang the Gratitude Calendar on your fridge (calendar is included in this resource). At some point during the day (maybe in the morning before school or at dinner time), you will fill in one thing you are grateful for. But here's the challenge...you can't write in the same thing twice! So if someone in your family says they are thankful for friends, no one else can say that for the rest of the month. The goal is to see how many things you are grateful for, to be reminded that God is good, and to remember that we should always give thanks to Him! And you are to just fill in one item per day. Don't jump ahead and fill out the whole calendar at one time. Practice gratitude each day in November by filling in one item a day.

Next, you will feed your "turkey" with gratitude (see craft for Week 1)! Every day you will take what you wrote down on your Gratitude Calendar and write that down on a piece of paper. Then you will "feed your turkey" the gratitude (place slip of paper in bag). At the end of the month, go back with your family and pull out all the gratitude slips and read out loud. Give thanks to God for all these things!

Have fun with your challenge!

## Family Game

### Week 1 – Bible Verse Pie Stack Race

*Supplies Needed: pie templates (included in this resource), tape, markers or crayons*

This game will help you with memorizing the Bible verse for the week!

First, color each pie using markers or crayons. Then cut out each pie.

Using the pie templates, you will race to stack the pies in order of the Bible verse. Each pie has one phrase from the Bible verse for the week. Your job is to stack the pies in the correct order (top to bottom). You can use tape and stack them on a wall in your house. Or you can stack them on the floor. Time each person and see who can stack the pies the fastest!

## Family Craft

### Week 1 – Gratitude Turkey Bag

*Supplies Needed: brown lunch bag, feather template, gobbler template, construction paper (red, orange, yellow, green, white, black), gluestick*

*Your family will create one Gratitude Turkey Bag. You will use it each week as part of the family devotion. To see a picture of this, see the next page. (next page only included in formatted PDF version)*

Using the feather template, trace and cut out one feather from each color construction paper (red, orange, yellow, green). Then cut out a triangle from the orange construction paper for the nose of the turkey. Next, free hand (or search internet for a template to use) a small gobbler onto red construction paper and cut out.

Then find 2 small circular objects in your home (one bigger than the other). These objects will be used to trace eyes for the turkey. Trace 2 large circles onto white paper and cut out. Then trace 2 small circles onto black paper and cut out.

Taking the brown lunch bag, glue the feathers onto the backside of the bag. Then glue the 2 large white circles to the front of the bag (as eyes). Then glue the 2 black circles onto the top of the white circles (as pupils for the eyes). Next, glue the gobbler on the left side of the bag. Then, turn the orange triangle upside down and glue on the nose (glue it over part of the gobbler).

Open the bag and set it on your dinner table and use every week during the devotion activity!

## **Thanksgiving Dessert**

### **Week 1 – Pecan Pie**

All the recipes for this month will be desserts for families to make for Thanksgiving!

1 cup sugar

1/2 cup corn syrup

1/4 cup melted butter

3 beaten eggs

1 cup chopped pecans

1 tsp vanilla

Frozen pie crust

Mix all ingredients together. Pour into unbaked frozen pie crust. Bake at 400° for 10 minutes, then lower to 350° and bake for 30-35 minutes. Cool and serve!