

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

JAMES 1:17; PSALM 33:2-5, 100:1-5, 95:1-5

LEARN THE WORD

Psalm 100:4

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

- We should thank God for who He is and the things He has done.
- We can thank God when we praise Him in song and in prayer.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

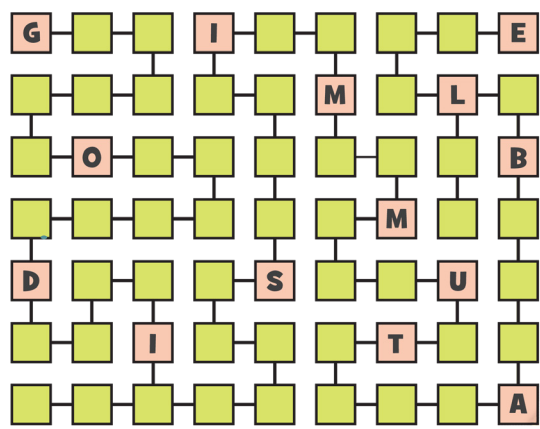
OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

What if your friend said that the only good thing about Thanksgiving is all the food, especially desserts?

What could you say?

I love desserts, too! Having a special meal with family is a great thing about Thanksgiving, but we shouldn't forget who gives us good things like food and our family. The Bible says that every good gift is from God. At Thanksgiving, it's a good time to thank God for the holiday, for our food, and all the other great things we have. We don't have to wait for Thanksgiving to do this, though. We should thank God every day when we pray and when we worship at church or at home.

Activity: Follow the line through the maze. As you pass each letter, write on the blanks below to finish the sentence.



He will never change.

HOMEWORD
FOR PARENTS

Thanksgiving is a time of showing appreciation for the blessings we have. We may go around the table and share things we're grateful for, things like family, friends, health, job, or highlights from the past year. But how often do we stop and just thank God for who He is and what He has done? James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

We can see here that all our blessings come from God. We also see an important attribute, or quality, of God—His immutability. Because God is immutable, He will never change. We can count on God to keep His word and remain true to His character. The character of God helps us know and praise Him for who He is. Many of the psalms give thanks and praise God for His attributes.

Psalms 33:2–5 gives thanks for His faithfulness, righteousness, justice, and steadfast love. Psalm 100 is an exuberant song of thanksgiving to God our Maker and Shepherd. Without the love of righteousness, and faithfulness of the Lord, we would have no hope or salvation. The psalms also praise God for the things He has done. Psalm 95 describes God as "the rock of our salvation" (v1) and "a great King above all gods" (v3), then gives an overview of His power over creation (v4–5). David begins Psalm 9 by recounting the wonderful deeds of the Lord, and we can follow this example.

Remembering God's faithfulness to us in the past strengthens our faith in the present. It is easy to focus on our problems and lose gratefulness instead of focusing on God. Our response to discovering more about who God is and what He has done should lead to joyful praise and grateful prayer. Singing to God is one way to express thanksgiving to Him. Another way is to thank Him specifically in prayer. Pray the psalms back to God, praising Him for who He is and thanking Him for all He has done.