

# A Thanksgiving Family Bible Study

*Remembering the God Who Provides, Sustains, and Keeps Covenant*

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## Introduction

Thanksgiving is more than a cultural holiday - it is a covenant act. Scripture commands God's people to remember His works, bless His name, and teach each generation to give thanks for His steadfast love. From the wilderness journey to the promised land, from the early church to households today, gratitude has always been a sign of faithful obedience.

True thanksgiving is not rooted in abundance but remembrance of God and what he has done for us. It is the recognition that every blessing - food, safety, children, calling, and breath itself - comes from the hand of God. It is also a declaration of trust: that the same God who has carried our families thus far will carry us all the way home.

This study leads your household through Scripture, reflection, worship, thanksgiving, and prayer, grounding your celebration in the unchanging faithfulness of God.

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## Scripture Reading & Commentary (KJV)

*(with commentary)*

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### Deuteronomy 8:1–6 - Remembering God in the Wilderness

*1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.*

*2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.*

*3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*

*4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.*

*5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.*

*6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.*

**Commentary:**

Thanksgiving begins with remembering. God intentionally led Israel through scarcity so they would learn dependence and discover His daily provision. He humbled them not to harm them but to father them. The wilderness was not a failure - it was training. Every trial your family has endured, every shortage you have survived, and every moment of discipline has been the work of a loving God shaping your household for faithfulness. Thanksgiving acknowledges that His hand has never failed.

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**Deuteronomy 8:7–10 - Remembering God in Abundance**

*7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;*

*8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;*

*9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.*

*10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.*

**Commentary:**

Gratitude in abundance is just as important as gratitude in scarcity. God warns His people that fullness can make them forgetful. Every harvest, every paycheck, every full pantry is a reminder that God provides - not luck, not labor alone, and not the world's systems. Thanksgiving turns abundance into worship instead of pride.

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**Psalms 103:1–14 - Bless the Lord, O My Soul**

*1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

*2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*

*3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*

*4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;*

*5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.*

*7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*

*8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

*9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.*

*10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*

*11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

*13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

*14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*

**Commentary:**

Psalm 103 turns thanksgiving from a holiday into a habit. David calls his own soul to remember - because the human heart forgets mercy quickly. God's benefits are not small: forgiveness, protection, healing, deliverance, provision, and compassion. Thanksgiving is the soul's obedience to truth - it realigns our hearts with who God is and what He has done for us.

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**Luke 17:11–19 - The One Who Returned to Give Thanks**

*11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.*

*12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:*

*13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.*

*4 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.*

*15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,*

*16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.*

*17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?*

*18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.*

*19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*

### **Commentary:**

Ten were healed, but only one returned. Thanksgiving is not automatic - it is an act of faith. Gratitude reveals genuine transformation. Jesus healed them all, but He commended only the thankful one. A thankful household is a whole household, because thanksgiving is evidence that we recognize God as the giver of every blessing.

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## **Roundtable Thanksgiving**

*(A guided family practice)*

After the Scripture readings, invite each family member - oldest to youngest - to share specific thanks before the Lord. You may lead with prompts:

- **Something God has done for you this year**
- **A hardship God has carried you through**
- **A blessing in your home or marriage**
- **Something about another family member you give thanks for**
- **A way God has strengthened your faith**

Close this section by reading aloud:

**“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”**

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## **Hymn: “God Our Father, God Our Giver”**

*To the tune of “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” - Meter: 8.7.8.7 D*

**By Lord Redbeard, 2020**

**1.**

God our Father, God our Giver,  
All our thanks we lift to You;  
Every harvest, every blessing,  
Flows from mercies ever new.  
You have led us, You have fed us,  
You have kept our households strong;  
By Your hand our homes are guarded -  
Ever faithful, ever strong.

**2.**

Through the wilderness You guide us,

Through the trials You provide;  
When the proud rise up against us,  
Still Your covenant abides.  
Grace has shaped our generations,  
Grace has built the homes we raise;  
Hearts and hands unite in worship -  
All our labor sings Your praise.

**3.**

Thankful for our daily portion,  
Thankful for the children given;  
Thankful for the yoke of order  
That reveals the ways of Heaven.  
Thankful for the trials that teach us,  
For the strength to stand and stay;  
For the peace You place within us,  
For Your Word that lights our way.

**4.**

From the fathers You have called us,  
To the sons You'll call again;  
Grant our sons the strength and courage  
To uphold this house and stand.  
Grant our wives a holy gladness,  
Keep our homes in truth and grace;  
Let each table, feast, and Sabbath  
Be a witness to Your ways.

**5.**

God our Portion, God our Future,  
All our days belong to You;  
From the seedtime to the ingathered,  
All Your promises prove true.  
Teach our hearts to trust Your wisdom,  
Teach our lips Your praise to bring;  
For Your goodness crowns our household -  
You are Lord of everything.



## Family Application Points

- 1. Remember God's Ways** - Gratitude begins by remembering where He has led your household.
- 2. Give Thanks in Trials** - Hardship is not evidence of abandonment but of God's fatherly refining.
- 3. Bless the Lord Daily** - Thanksgiving must become habit, not holiday.

**4. Teach the Children** - The next generation must learn to thank God by hearing you thank Him.

**5. Acknowledge the Giver** - Every blessing is from His hand; let gratitude purify your home's atmosphere.

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## **A Thanksgiving Meal Prayer**

Father of mercies and God of every good gift, we gather at this table to remember Your faithfulness. You have carried us through trials, provided for our needs, strengthened our labors, and crowned our home with blessings we do not deserve. Today we give You thanks for daily bread, for children at our table, for peace in our home, and for Your Word that guides our steps.

Teach us to remember You in abundance and depend on You in scarcity. Let gratitude guard our hearts from pride, and let our thanksgiving rise before You as a pleasing offering. Bless this meal, bless this household, and make our table a testimony of Your goodness for generations to come. In Jesus' name, Amen.