



Week 3

I will give thanks to You, Oh Lord my God, with my whole heart
and I will glorify Your name forever. —Psalm 86:12



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Notes

Scripture References This Lesson

Psalm 86:11-13
2 Thessalonians 5:18
Matthew 12:34
Colossians 3:17
Luke 11:37-42
2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Luke 11:41
Exodus 25:2
Proverbs 3:9-10
2 Corinthians 8:1-7
Psalm 107

give thanks – eucharisteo
to be thankful; to express one's gratitude; give thanks

thanksgiving – eucharistia
gratitude; grateful language; thanks to God as an act of worship.

be thankful – eucharistos
thankful, mindful of favors, grateful ;used only in Colossians 3:15.

grace - charis
the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life; that which affords joy or pleasure; of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues; the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace.

Preparing Our Hearts

♥ G _____

♥ G _____

Notes

give thanks – yadah
to acknowledge, to raise, to confess. The essential meaning is an act of acknowledging what is right about God in praise and thanksgiving. It can also mean an acknowledgement of self before God in confessing sin. Often linked with the word hallelujah which in Hebrew is: **halal** –to praise, boast, shine, can mean to shout and **Jah** - the contracted form of Jehovah or Yahweh, meaning He is.

good - hesed
unfailing love, kindness, goodness, mercy, faithfulness, love. The classic text for understanding this word is in Psalm 136 where it is repeated 26 times. God's kindness and faithfulness serve as foundation for his actions and character. It is abundant, exceedingly great, without end and good.

"When it comes right down to it, these are the only two possible responses to Jesus Christ. We either want to be kings ourselves, as Herod did, or we surrender to the King of kings. We crucify him or we worship him. There is no middle ground."
–Ann Hibbard

Psalm 107:1-3

Psalm 107:4-9 He! _____

Psalm 107:10-16 He! _____

Psalm 107:17-22 He! _____

Psalm 107:23-32 He! _____

What would your Psalm 107 be? Write your story of how God has worked in your life and reasons for giving thanks.

Hallelujah, **Praise He IS...**

- **Read Matthew 2:1-18.** The Magi have come seeking Jesus. What was Herod's reaction to the news of Jesus? Compare Herod's response to that of the Magi?

- **Read Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1-8, 16-18.** How was Herod's belief different from the Magi's belief?

- **Read Romans 8.** What promises does God give us in this chapter? Do you believe that God will keep his promises? How does your belief translate into action?

- **Read Matthew 2:10-11.** The gifts of the Magi each had a special meaning; each said something about who Jesus was and what he came to do. The gold, a gift for a king, showed that Jesus was truly King of kings. The incense was a gift for a priest, who burned incense in the temple as he prayed for the people. The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus became our Great High Priest. Myrrh was a precious ointment used to prepare bodies for burial. Christ's sacrificial death for our sins was the very reason for his birth. With the meanings of the gifts of the Magi in mind, spend some time praising and thanking God for the way these gifts impact your life.

- **Read Luke 1:46-55** (Mary's Song of Praise). What do you learn about who God is from Mary's Song of Praise? This is a compilation of Old Testament verses, what does this tell us about Mary's heart and relationship with God? What steps can you take to cultivate a heart and mind full of the Word so it flows from your life like this song from Mary? How can you cultivate this in your children's hearts?

Preparing Our Homes


Create a Thankful Tree - Create a tree for your family to use at Thanksgiving to begin your Christmas season. Grab a tree branch from the yard and place in a container. Anchor with rocks or styrofoam. Cut out leaves or cards, punch a hole in card and attach ribbon or raffia. Place them near the tree and let family members record things they are thankful for throughout the advent season and hang them on the tree. This blog site has some cute printable tags you can use for this purpose: jonesdesigncompany.com/holiday/thankful-tree-with-free-printable-tags/

Giving Thanks Scripture Chain/Jar - Print verses on giving thanks and cut into strips. Form into a chain or place strips in a jar and each day read the Scripture as a family and share something you are thankful for that day. Close in a time of prayer focused on praising God and giving thanks. Consider praying the verse for the day back to the Lord. (It's a great way to teach your children how to personalize and pray Scripture!)