Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

Week 47: November 20-26, 2022

Celebrate Thanksgiving

This year, we are focusing on who God is and how we can celebrate him and the life that he offers to us. We will draw deeper into a relationship with the Lord through examining his nature and desire for personal intimacy with us as his people, and we are going to do so in such a fun way! We are going to journey in 2022 through practical ways to celebrate various holidays! We will look at many of your favorite celebrations: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and much more. We will explore the historic, liturgical holidays of the year, learn about the Jewish festivals of the Bible days, and even consider some of the celebrations of other religious faiths. I'm so glad you will be on this journey with us.

In this packet, you will find some ideas for you to grow closer to God, your family, and others. Nothing is required. It is all for fun and your personal enjoyment and growth. There are enough activities that you could do one or two per day during the week if you want. If you don't want to do something, skip it. If another idea comes to mind, do it. Watch for God's abundant goodness and celebrate it.

Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate Thanksgiving. Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- What are your plans for the Thanksgiving holiday?
- What are the things that you are most thankful for this year?
- How has God blessed your life recently?
- In what way is God walking with you through the challenges of your current situation?
- What are some of the ways that you most enjoy praising God?
- How can your life reflect your praise for God this week?

Craft: Turkey Windsock

1. Paint the can brown and let it dry completely.
2. Using a paint pen, draw a triangle (beak) in the center of one side of the can.
3. Attach googly eyes above the beak.
4. Glue or tape to the top inside of the can the feathers or make your own from felt, construction paper, etc.
5. Cut 10-15 pieces of ribbon about 18" long and glue or tape them to the inside of the bottom of the can.
6. Cut a teardrop (wattle) from red construction paper and glue near the beak.
7. Use ribbon to attach a hanger to the top.

Needed Supplies:

- Clean Vegetable Can
- Brown Paint
- Glue
- Orange Paint Pen
- Googly Eyes
- Fall Color Ribbons
- Feathers, Felt, Etc.
- Construction Paper
- Tape

Food to Prepare

There is little doubt that Thanksgiving centers around the table and a feast of good food. All the way back to the pilgrims and Native Americans gathering at the first Thanksgiving, the sharing of food has been central. Consider these traditional Thanksgiving dishes for your "turkey day" celebration, recommended by Delish.

- Roast Turkey
- Apple Butter Pie
- Cranberry Whipped Feta Dip
- Mashed Potato Casserole
- Apple Stuffing
- Perfect Mashed Potatoes
- Green Bean Casserole
- Thanksgiving Rolls
- Perfect Gravy
- Cranberry Sause
- Best Turkey Brine
- Classic Stuffing
- Turtle Cheesecake
- Pecan Pie
- Candied Yams
- Cornbread Dressing/Stuffing
- Cranberry Pie
- Fluffy Potato Rolls
- Baked Sweet Potato
- Dry Brined Turkey
- Pumpkin Pie Turkeys
- Easy Pumpkin Pie
- Gravy Without Drippings
- Stuffed Mushrooms
- Honey Balsamic Glazed Brussels Sprouts
- Sweet Potato Casserole with Marshmallows
- Caramelized Onion and Goat Cheese Bites
- Ruth's Chris Sweet Potato Casserole
- Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Balsamic Roasted Baby Carrots
- Creamed Brussel Sprouts
- Mashed Sweet Potatoes
- Holiday Roasted Vegetables
- Easy Cranberry Stuffing
- Caramelized Onion Dip
- Sweet Potato Casserole
- Pecan Pie Cheesecake
- Stuffed Turkey Breast
- Sweet Potato Pie
- Corn Casserole
- Turkey Roulade
- Apple Pie

Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. According to Rotten Tomatoes, these are some of the best movies to watch for Thanksgiving. If you'd rather, just pick another great movie to watch together. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

Thanksgiving Movies:

- Turkey Hollow
- The War at Home
- The Myth of Fingerprints
- The House of Yes
- The Oath
- Alice's Restaurant
- Grumpy Old Men
- Home for the Holidays
- The Blind Side
- The Big Chill
- Funny People
- The Vicious Kind
- You've Got Mail
- Hollidaysburg
- Adam's Family Values
- Tadpole
- Soul Food
- Pieces of April
- Avalon
- The Ice Storm
- Scent of a Woman
- Hannah and Her Sisters
- The Humans
- Planes, Trains and Automobiles
- Little Women
- Krisha
- Miracle on 34th Street
- A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

Mini Pumpkin Hunt

Get an assortment of mini pumpkins at the store. Then, gather the family for a variation of an Easter egg hunt. Take turns hiding the mini pumpkins in the yard or the house. See who can find the most. Get creative. Make some pumpkins worth more points and hide them in particularly difficult places. Have fun.

Then, use the mini pumpkins as decoration around the house or as centerpieces on the dinner table. Happy Thanksgiving!

Bible Study

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song" (Psalm 95:1-2).

Perhaps there is no better expression of thanksgiving than that found in the psalms. These songs of praise and adoration center on expressing emotion to God in good times and in hard times.

In Psalm 95, we are entreated to come and to sing , shout, and play music as an expression of our gratitude. While being thankful is a personal, inward emotion, expressing gratitude is an action of appreciation. Because we are thankful for who God is and what he is doing, we should show our gratefulness to him. There are many ways that we give thanks to God, but music is one of the universal ways that we show God that we appreciate him.

The psalmist specifically calls God "the Rock of our salvation." A rock is a heavy, solid foundation. God is the secure surface that holds, sustains, and erects our salvation and eternal life. Apart from God, we would not exist. Without God, our existence is unfulfilling. Yet, with God as the foundation of our lives, we are saved from purposeless living, making each day a new and exciting adventure.

Who is God to you, today? Will you worship him with thanksgiving, joy, and music?

Prayer Time

Sometimes it is hard to be thankful when life has been tough. Be honest with yourself and with God. Look for the blessings even in the pain. Consider this prayer by Be Resolute:

God, this year has been hard for many of us at this table. While this is a sweet moment, it's also hard. The challenges we have faced this year have been overwhelming, and as we gather today, we cannot ignore the fact that these feelings still linger as does the pain. But for these next few hours, we remember that you are a God who loves us, cares for us, heals us, and forgives us. Help us to enjoy this time. In the lingering bitterness give us peace. We thank you for this meal and pray a blessing for our strength. Amen.

Show Gratitude at Work

Consider these recommendation as ways that you can show gratitude to you're your coworkers, boss, and employees this week (from Tiny Buddha):

1. Write a hand-written thank you note, acknowledging things you value about them and their work.

2. Offer to lighten their workload in some way if you are able.

3. Bring back lunch for them if you know they're working hard and likely haven't had a chance to grab something.

4. If you're running a meeting, keep it short to show them you appreciate and respect their time.

5. Ask them about their lives instead of always being all business. This doesn't mean you need to pry into personal matters; it just means showing an interest in who they are as people.

6. Be the calm, light voice in a stressful situation.

7. Give them flowers to brighten their desk.

8. Let their boss know how they're doing a great job and contributing to the company.

9. Listen fully if they're having a difficult day, and recognize if they need space to figure things out on their own, not advice or help.

10. Remember the little things can make a big difference!

Take Care of You

With the holiday season approaching, it is so easy to get too busy running around doing good and caring for others. If you are not careful, you can over-extend yourself and find yourself exhausted and stressed. Be sure to prioritize time for your self-care. Treat yourself to something fun that you enjoy. Take breaks. Put lesser urgent things aside. Cherish the moment.

Worship

Carve out some time to listen to worship music, hum or sing along. Here are some great songs to get you started. These songs are about being thankful. Look them up on YouTube if you don't have them in your music repertoire.

Pick your own songs and spend time worshipping and celebrating who God is to you and all the ways that he has blessed your life.

Thankful Songs:

- Give Thanks
- We Gather Together
- Come Ye Thankful People Come
- Count Your Blessings
- There is a Redeemer
- Forever
- I Will Enter His Gates
- My Savior, My God
- 10,000 Reasons
- Praise to the Lord the Almighty
- To God be the Glory
- How Great Thou Art
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- For the Beauty of the Earth
- Doxology

Challenge: A to Z

The main thing about Thanksgiving is to be thankful. Take a journal or piece of paper and write the letters of the alphabet along the left side of the paper. Then, individually or as a family, see if you can come up with things that you are thankful for that begin with each letter (Feel free to skip Q, X, and Z if they are harder and make them a wildcard where someone can say anything he/she is thankful for.). Conclude with a time of prayer to thank God for the things on your list.

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." —William Arthur Ward