

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of November 19, 2023 A.D.

Thanksgiving

This Thursday, the United States of America will celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving. As we prepare ourselves to enjoy this special national holiday with our family and friends, we should remember that it is God's desire that His created beings give thanks to Him every day and that we should have at the core of our being an attitude of gratitude. In this lesson, we will study some selected passages of scripture which will reinforce the importance of daily thanksgiving in our relationship with God.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Luke 9:16, 17; 22:14-19; and 24:30-31

1. In each passage, for what and to whom did Jesus give thanks?
2. Jesus gave thanks to God for food. Should we do so also? Is it appropriate for us to say grace before we eat any food? Does it matter if we are at home or in a public place? What are the benefits, if any, to us when we give thanks to God for food?

Read Luke 11:1-4

3. Why did Jesus tell his disciples to pray each day for our daily bread? What does this prayer request imply about our dependence on God for daily food? Does God owe to us daily food? Does this prayer request have any relevance or meaning in the current American society?

Read Proverbs 30:7-9

4. According to this proverb, what should we desire from God regarding material possessions? What is the danger in having too much materially? What does it mean to disown the Lord? What is wrong with disowning God? What is wrong with dishonoring the name of God?
5. Does this proverb have anything to do with the topic of giving thanks? In your own experience, what have you found to be the benefits of giving thanks to God? Also, please describe and discuss ways in which we can express thanks to God.

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-5

6. Is there a connection between humility, obedience, and our relationship to God? How does the attitude of your heart affect your relationship with God? Is the Lord's discipline something for which to be thankful?

Read Deuteronomy 8:10-20

7. Does material wealth always cause people to forget God?
8. What is the message of verses 19-20? Is there a connection between verses 10-18 and the message of verses 19-20?
9. Do these verses have any relevance to our current American society? Do these verses have anything to do with the topic of giving thanks to God?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

10. According to these verses, how does God provide for the needs of poor people?
11. Read verse 11. What is the result of generosity toward other people?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15

12. Identify and discuss the various results mentioned in these verses when people are generous in their giving to other people.

Consider: God wants each of us to enjoy our personal relationship with Him and to increasingly rely upon Him to meet our needs. When God gives to us an abundance of material goods, we are to thank him and then show our gratitude by generously sharing our possessions with those in need. Those who receive the gifts from us will then offer prayers of thanksgiving for the gifts and also for you. As a result, God will be glorified by the thanksgiving of not only the person in need but also by the thanksgiving of the giver.