

LESSON

Verse: I Thessalonians 5:18 “Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus.”

Today we wrap up our study of I Thessalonians. What great lessons we have learned through these writings of the apostle Paul! We have learned to be more and more like Jesus ... in the way we love God and each other, in the way we grow in our faith, and in our attitudes.

This week we are really zooming in on our attitudes. Isn't that fitting in this season that we are in? Are you getting tired of staying home? Me, too! I miss you and I miss gathering together but Paul reminds us to be thankful no matter what happens! So even in times like this, we need to say 'thank you' to God for His constant care for us. Think of ways that you can show 'thankfulness'. When our smiles are frowns and our heads hang down and we're grouchy that isn't showing thankfulness, is it? When we remember all of God's blessings – even small things – it changes our heart and our attitude!

Paul writes about more than just being thankful. **He also tells us to always be joyful.** We've talked about this before ... what is the difference between being happy and being joyful? Happy depends on what is happening around us. Happy is a pop-sicle on a hot day! But joy doesn't depend on what is happening around us. Joy is deeper and stronger and is there even when things don't go the way we want them to. We should be joy-filled!

Paul also tells us to never stop praying. That doesn't mean going around with your eyes closed and your hands folded all the time. You'll crash into the wall! It does mean remembering that God is always there and always available to you ... He wants you to talk to Him as if He were standing right beside you. So, when you are troubled, you should tell Him. And, when you are glad, you should tell Him that too.

Paul says in I Thessalonians 5:12-13 to **show respect to those who lead us** and for the hard work that they do. This has been a difficult season for our leaders. Everyone from the President to the Governor to our own pastors have had hard decisions to make and we should be grateful for the ways that God is guiding them.

As Paul wraps up the book of I Thessalonians he shares these words, “The God who has chosen you is faithful. He will do all these things.” (5:24). **God is faithful. God keeps His promises.** Doesn't that make your heart feel good? No matter what happens around us, God keeps His promises and He is faithful. He will never leave you. He is your strong tower.

This week is a special week for believers. We will be remembering Jesus' last week of His earthly ministry. This is the week when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a colt and ate a special last meal with His disciples. This week we remember how He prayed in the Garden, was arrested and died on the cross out of love for each of us. Next Sunday, we celebrate His victory over death because Jesus is alive! It's Easter Sunday!

ACTIVITY

Watch the video on the church website or app. Miss Pam and Miss Kathie will join you via video.

100 THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Challenge your family to come up with a list of 100 things to be thankful for today! Remember, "Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

"THANK YOU" AROUND THE WORLD

Have fun with your family learning to say 'thanks' in a new way!

Chinese: Xie xie (pronounced "Shyeh shyeh")

Russian: Spasibo (sounds like "Spa-see-boh")

Spanish: Gracias

French: Merci

German: Danke (informal; pronounced "Dahn-kuh")

Hebrew: Toda (pronounced "Toh Dah")

Filipino: Salamat

Japanese: Arigato (informal; pronounced "Ah-reegah-toh")

CRAFT



EASTER WEEK RIBBON

In your bag is a length of ribbon and a page of pictures and captions.

Cut out and color in the pictures and match them to the captions.

Then glue them onto the ribbon in the order that they happened in the life of Jesus.

Use this to help you remember Jesus' love for you this week and thank Him.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COLORING PAGE – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

WORKSHEET – Complete the word search puzzle. (Hint: lots of diagonals!)