

Who Or What Is Your Portion?

by Pastor Kurt Schroder

Every year I look forward to Thanksgiving. It is my favorite holiday. Thanksgiving is meant to be a time when we consider our situation in life over the past year and we thank the Lord for His blessings. I have to confess, some years I struggle with giving thanks. I have found there are times when I can be very discontent. Why is that?

In the days of Joshua, as the tribes were given their part of the Promised Land, the tribe of Levi was given none. Instead, the priestly tribe was told, "Levi has no portion or inheritance with his brethren, the LORD is his inheritance, just as the LORD your God promised him" (Deuteronomy 10:9). Their sustenance would be derived not from the land but from the Lord.

Fast forward to the days of the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, some nine hundred years later, Jeremiah writes the book of Lamentations. As he watches the slow destruction of the city of Jerusalem, the starvation of God's people, and the desperation of families to survive, he utters words that seem misplaced in such a setting. "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." Lamenta-

tions 3:22-23

How can the prophet say this? How can he be thankful in the midst of such suffering? He speaks of new mercies every morning but day after day for better than a year and half to two years, the conditions in Jerusalem worsened. The next few words tell us the reason Jeremiah, in spite of his circumstances, could be content: "The Lord is my portion," says my soul" Lamentations 3:24.

What did Jeremiah mean when he said, "The Lord is my portion"? I believe he meant that if the Lord is my portion then I don't need to look to other things for my happiness and blessing. If the Lord is my portion, I can be content with what He has and will supply. If God is my portion, then I don't need to seek other possessions or comforts apart from Him. If God is my portion, I need nothing else.

This is the foundation for a life of thanksgiving - learning in whatever place we are, therewith to be content. Isn't that what Paul said he had learned in Philipians 4:11? He learned that contentment came from looking to the Lord.

Wherever you are this Thanksgiving, in want or in plenty, know that in God Himself, you have all you need. The Lord is my portion; therefore, I hope in Him.

Eight easy gratitude activities for families *from christianparenting.org*

How can you help develop gratefulness in your family?

Thanksgiving – the holiday of gratitude and thankfulness!

The call to gratitude existed long before the first Thanksgiving meal between pilgrims and Native Americans. And having a grateful heart and a spirit of thanksgiving is a big part of the Christian faith, going all the way back to the Old Testament.

God knew from the very beginning that when we focus our attention on gratitude and are genuinely thankful for what we have in our lives and through faith in Christ, we can truly live with joy and contentment.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34).

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Living with gratitude and thanksgiving are core tenets at the heart of every believer.

And during this special time of year, we get to emphasize thankfulness with our families in unique ways, teaching our children what it means to truly be grateful.

One of the best ways we can celebrate this beautiful holiday and demonstrate gratitude in real time is by purposefully setting time aside for special gratitude-focused activities with our families.

You can do any of these activities as a family on Thanksgiving Day or the days leading up to Thanksgiving. You could even do these activities while riding in the car if you're traveling.

It doesn't matter when you do these activities. All that matters is that you make time to come together as a family, have fun, and set your minds and hearts on the buzzwords of the holiday – gratitude and thankfulness.

Here are 8 easy gratitude-focused activities to do as a family this year:

ABC gratitude

The ABC game or alphabet game is a tried and true activity that is great for car rides, walking through the grocery store, or working in the kitchen together. Go through the alphabet naming things that you're grateful for. Repeat the words and letters as you go so by the end of the game you've said the entire alphabet with things that you're grateful for. This is a great group game or can

be a fun 2 person game.

Gratitude dice game

Create a list of things to name such as, "Things that make you smile." Then, use a pair of dice or a random number generator to determine how many things you have to name. For example, if you roll a 5, then everyone would name 5 things that make them smile.

Family gratitude game

This is a spin on the gratitude dice game. You'll create a list of things like we did in the dice game, but you'll have people-focused prompts instead. A great example is, "Name someone who you like to have fun with." I wouldn't suggest rolling dice for this one, but if it makes the game more fun for your family, go ahead!

Gratitude spotlight

When you're around the table for a meal, it can be the actual Thanksgiving meal or just a regular family dinner, everyone gets a chance to be in the spotlight. Everyone around the table will take a turn telling the person in the spotlight how grateful they are for them and highlight something special that they do.

Gratitude sticky notes

Grab a stack of sticky notes and markers. Have everyone write down things that they're thankful for. Stick them on a prominent wall in your home. Look at them every time you walk by and feel the gratitude!

Funny Thanksgiving-themed drawing game

Brainstorm a list of Thanksgiving-themed things to draw. When it's time to play, have everyone sit at the table (you could also do this in the car or at a restaurant). Give a drawing instruction, then after a short time, instruct your kids to switch hands. Go back and forth between drawing with the left hand and the right hand.

Fill in the blank thankfulness game

Create a mad-libs-style list of prompts and have the kids fill in the blank.

"I am thankful for ____." "I love it when we ____ as a family."

Thankful Prayers

In a group, take turns praying. Each person can only pray a prayer of thanksgiving.

Thankfulness is a choice, not a feeling. **Be thankful!**

Services & Bible Studies (Times and Places)

Every Sunday:

Sunday School	9:45 am
AM Service	11:00 am
PM Service	6:00 pm

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer
Middle & High School Youth Group

Men's Bible Study:

Men's breakfast is once a month.
Usually the 2nd Saturday at 8 am.

Women's Bible Study:

The ladies' Bible study will meet every other week. Monday morning at 9 am at the church and Monday evening at 6 pm at Sharon Rometti's home.

Does God expect Christians to vote? gotquestions.org



It is our contention that it is the duty and responsibility of every Christian to vote and to vote for leaders who promote Christian principles. God is most certainly in control, but that does not mean we should do nothing to further His will. We are commanded to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). In terms of politics and leadership, there is evidence in Scripture that God has been displeased with our choices of leadership at times (Hosea 8:4). The evidence of sin's grip on this world is everywhere. Much of the suffering on earth is because of godless leadership (Proverbs 28:12). Scripture gives Christians instructions to obey legitimate authority unless it contradicts the Lord's commands (Acts 5:27-29; Romans 13:1-7). As born-again believers, we ought to strive to choose leaders who will be themselves led by our Creator (1 Samuel 12:13-25). Candidates or proposals that violate the Bible's commands for life, family, marriage, or faith should never be supported (Proverbs 14:34). Christians should vote as led through prayer and study of both God's Word and the realities of the choices on the ballot.

Christians in many countries in this world are oppressed and persecuted. They suffer under governments that they are powerless to change and governments that hate their faith and silence

their voices. These believers preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at the risk of their own lives. In the U.S.A., Christians have been blessed with the right to speak about and choose their leaders without fearing for themselves or their families. In the U.S.A., in recent elections, about 2 of every 5 of self-professed Christians took that right for granted and did not vote. About 1 in 5 self-professed, eligible Christians are not even registered to vote.

In our day and age, there are many who want to drive the name and message of Christ completely out of the public arena. Voting is an opportunity to promote, protect, and preserve godly government. Passing up that opportunity means letting those who would denigrate the name of Christ have their way in our lives. The leaders we elect—or do nothing to remove—have great influence on our freedoms. They can choose to protect our first amendment right to religious freedom and the right to spread the gospel, or they can restrict those rights. They can lead our nation toward righteousness or toward moral disaster. As Christians, we should stand up and follow our command to fulfill our civic duties (Matthew 22:21).

Missionary Report: Each month we will update our missionaries.

Wrights (Missionaries in Gulu, Uganda)

An urgent special prayer request from the Wrights.

Hello from Uganda. This is the kind of letter that I don't like to write, because I am asking for more help financially. Your church has already helped us abundantly over the years. And I know that there is much fruit on your account. I am asking for help because of two areas.

1. The radio station is consuming more money than previously predicted. When we came back on the last furlough we were trying to raise \$500 a month just to pay the monthly bills of the station. We were able to raise about \$125 a month for the radio and the rest has been coming out of the "ministry" side of our support. However, we are seeing that even \$500 a month is really not enough to simply keep up with the monthly costs, let alone any major equipment purchases. The true monthly expenses are more like \$750 monthly.

2. Our children's education is a huge bill right now. Thankfully, this bill will not be there forever! But right now it's heavy. The reason as to why it is heavier now than ever before, is because we have felt led by the Lord to send our remaining three children to a Christian school for missionary kids in Nairobi for their high school education. (Don't worry, they will come back and be with us here in Uganda several times during the year!).

The combination of these two areas are creating a real pinch in our finances. If we only had one area to consider we could more easily handle it with our existing support. And as we come back in 2025 for a brief furlough we are already trying to arrange to visit some new churches and raise extra support.

So we are asking that you pray about this. And whether you help with a monthly amount or a one time amount, we would be extremely appreciative. As it will help ease this burden. And if you can't help at all, we also understand that. I will leave it at that. If you have questions about anything, I will be happy to answer them.

God bless you guys,

Nate Wright

Summary of the Book of Job (from gotquestions.org)

Author: The Book of Job does not specifically name its author. The most likely candidates are Job, Elihu, Moses, and Solomon.

Date of Writing: The date of the authorship of the Book of Job would be determined by the author of the Book of Job. If Moses was the author, the date would be around 1440 B.C. If Solomon was the author, the date would be around 950 B.C. Because we don't know the author, we can't know the date of writing.

Purpose of Writing: The Book of Job helps us to understand the following: Satan cannot bring financial and physical destruction upon us unless it is by God's permission. God has

Continued on the last page.

power over what Satan can and cannot do. It is beyond our human ability to understand the "why's" behind all the suffering in the world. The wicked will receive their just dues. We cannot always blame suffering and sin on our lifestyles. Suffering may sometimes be allowed in our lives to purify, test, teach, or strengthen the soul. God remains enough, and He deserves and requests our love and praise in all circumstances of life.

Brief Summary: At the beginning of the book of Job is a scene in heaven where Satan stands before God. God asks Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" (Job 1:8),

From Sunday "Christian" to Saved Christian

by Duane Anderson

My name is Duane Anderson. I am from Crystal Falls where I was born 80 years ago.

I was raised in a Christian family and was baptized as an infant and confirmed at the age 13 in the Lutheran Church. For most of my adult life I was a Sunday Christian and attended church on most Sundays both in the U.P. and in the Ann Arbor area where I lived and worked for 31 years. While in the Ann Arbor area I was a Deacon in my church.

Throughout these many years I never read the Bible or knew the need to be saved until one spring Sunday in 2010 my wife Laverne and I heard Dr. Charles Stanley on TV talk about the importance of being saved. After his service we both accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, repented of our sins, and thanked Him for dying on the cross for us. We were both baptized by immersion in July of 2012.

Since then we have sought every day to commune with our Lord and to receive His grace. We have received numerous blessings since being saved. Some have come as a result of following 2 Corinthians 9:6 which says "whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously."

Family Bible Time Challenge

Whether your family includes children, a couple, or an individual, God's command is still the same. We need to read His word daily and then obey it.

Here is a suggestion/challenge for you during the month of November. Let's all get involved in the:

November Bible Reading Challenge.

This month, your challenge is to read an interesting Old Testament book. The book is Job.

Some days you will have to read more than one chapter in order to finish it in one month.

So, you are challenged to take time with your family each day.

- First pray together.
- Next, read a chapter of the book together.
- Then, discuss what you read together

Share what you learn with others. This could be in person, by phone or text, or even on social media.

See an overview of Job in this newsletter.

Continued Summary of the Book of Job

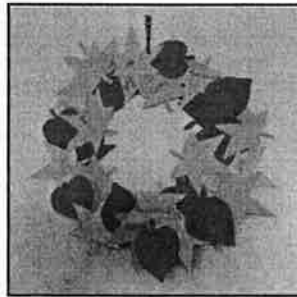
and Satan immediately accuses Job, a righteous man, of fearing God only because God had prospered him. "Strike everything he has," Satan says, "and he will surely curse you to your face" (Job 1:11). God grants Satan limited permission to put Job to the test. Why do the righteous suffer? This is the question raised after Job loses his family, his wealth, and his health. Job's three friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, come to "comfort" him and to discuss his crushing series of tragedies. They insist his

suffering is punishment for sin in his life. Job, though, remains devoted to God through all of this and contends that his life has not been one of sin. A fourth man, Elihu, tells Job he needs to humble himself and submit to God's use of trials to purify his life. Finally, Job questions God Himself and learns valuable lessons about the sovereignty of God and his need to totally trust in the Lord. Job is then restored to health, happiness, and prosperity beyond his earlier state.

Kids' Corner with Miss Abby

Thankful Wreath (see instructions below)

- construction paper (red, yellow, and orange like autumn leaves)
- leaf templates (you can find these on the table in the church foyer.)
- writing utensils
- scissors
- glue sticks
- thin cardboard (we used a pizza box)
- 2 different-sized circular items (to trace for the wreath shape)

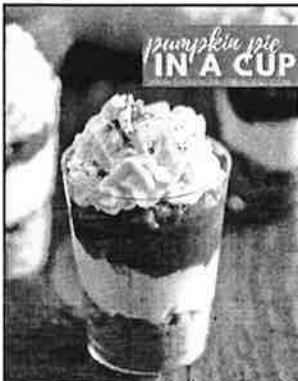


First, I traced two different sizes of circular lids onto the cardboard. Then, I cut the cardboard on those lines to make the wreath's shape.

Next either trace the leaf templates onto colored paper or print them directly onto colored paper.

Cut out each leaf and let your child write one thing they are thankful for on each one. Then glue them onto the wreath shaped cardboard and let dry.

Lastly hang your wreath up and let it remind you of all God had blessed us with.



To make this recipe you will need:

- a cup and a spoon
- 1 vanilla pudding cup
- 2 graham crackers
- 2 – 3 tablespoons of pumpkin pie mix
- a dallop of whipped cream
- sprinkle of cinnamon or cinnamon sugar
- Crush graham cracker and place in cup
- Add vanilla pudding to cup
- Add a 2-3TBSP of pumpkin pie mix on top. (You can mix pudding and pie mix if desired)
- Add whipped cream and a dash of cinnamon to top. Enjoy!

Verse: Psalm 100:4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Challenge: November is when we focus on thankfulness but we should always be thankful. God has blessed each of us with family, friends, clothes, toys, food, and so much more. This month let's spend each day thanking God for something different. It will start out easy but as the weeks go by it may get harder.