

Thank You Note Reminders

Directions: Fill out each note with something you are thankful for. Then post them at different places around your house! Every time you see one. Stop. Take a few seconds to thank God for whatever you wrote down.

Dear God,

Thank you for ...

Elem456 Small Group Week 1 (November 22, 2020)

Memory Verse: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall live.'" John 11:25 (ESV)

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Bible Story:

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the church of the Thessalonians, he encourages new Christians so that they would live godly lives and have the full assurance of salvation. Like his other epistles (letters), Paul closes with a series of exhortations. The specific instructions we looked at today revolve around three imperatives: rejoice always (v. 16), pray without ceasing (v. 17), and to give thanks in all circumstances (v. 18). These are all things that God wills for His people to do! Why? Because God is always working in our midst. Christians have good reason to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and to give thanks!

[Bottom Line/Main Point]: God's will for you is to always give thanks to Him.

Activity #1 Sermon Review Questions + Discussion Questions:

*You do not have to cover all of the questions! Please pick and choose whatever is best for your small group. Students might be too shy to answer, too reluctant to answer, or eagerly try to answer everything themselves. Please give some time for each student to think and process. Ask guiding questions to help them form their own answers. The goal is critical thinking versus sharing the "right answers"!

Sermon Review Questions (Reading Comp. Type Questions)

- 1.) **What are Christians told to do in verse 16?** A: *Rejoice always* (1 Thessalonians 5:16)
- 2.) **What are Christians told to do in verse 17?** A: *Pray without ceasing* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- 3.) **What are Christians told to do in verse 18?** A: *Give thanks in all circumstances* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- 4.) **According to the last part of verse 18, why should Christians rejoice, pray, and give thanks?** A: *Because it is God's will for us* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Tip 1: Ask students to have their Bible's open!

Tip 2: Please direct students to find and read the corresponding verses if they do not know an answer to one of the sermon review questions. Verses are in green.

*Bonus Question: **Who wrote 1 Thessalonians?** A: *The Apostle Paul* (1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2:18)

Discussion Questions

- 1.) **What are some things that you are thankful for in your life?**
- 2.) **What do you usually do to show someone that you are thankful?** (For instance, when their parents buy them something.)
- 3.) **Why do you think God wants us to be thankful?**
- 4.) **How can we show God that we are thankful?**

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Activity #2: Community Building

“Thank You Reminders”

Giving thanks to God in all circumstances takes practice, and so one way we can practice is by putting “thank you” reminders throughout the house!

Directions:

1) Have students print out the PDF “Thank You Notes.” (If students cannot print out the PDF, then they can create their own notes.)

2) Have students think about at least 6 things they are thankful for. Then have students write those things down on each of the thank you notes.

3) Have students share with one another at least 1 thing that they are thankful for.

4) ****For after small group is over****

Instruct students to cut out thank you notes and place/tape each of them at different parts of the house (places where they will see the notes, like on the fridge!). Encourage students to stop when they see a note and take a few seconds to thank God for whatever is on that note.

(i.e., “Dear God,

Thank you for keeping my family safe and healthy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”)

Activity #3: Pray Together

Close small group by praying together. Have each of the students pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for at least one of the things they wrote down for the thank you note activity.

Student prayers do not have to be long. It could be, “Dear God. Thank you for _____. In Jesus’ name. Amen.” The goal is to get students used to praying!