

Memorials of Thanksgiving

Joshua 4—¹ When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ² “Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. ³ Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’”

⁴ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. ⁵ He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁶ We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ⁷ Tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.”

Lessons from the Memorials of Thanksgiving

1. It’s easy to find things to _____ and hard to find things for which _____ . . . work at it and _____. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
2. Take _____ to lead your family in _____.
3. Take _____ to _____ your children, your grandchildren, the children of our church, in the “way they should go.” (Proverbs 22:6)
4. Create and/or expose your children to things (memorials) that _____ for them the things God has done. (Psalm 105:1)

Communion the Memorial to Jesus’ sacrifice

Giving Thanks

Psalm 100:4 – Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 105:1 – Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Psalm 106:1 – Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – . . . give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Romans 1:18 – 24 –¹⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For, ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

²¹ *Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.* ²² *Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.* ²³ *And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.*

²⁴ *So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired.*

_____ is an essential part of life.

Abraham Lincoln 1863

March 13, 1863 – a “Day of Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer”

“ . . . we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.”

(<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/fast.htm>)

October 3, 1863 – a Day of Thanksgiving.

“No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.”

(<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/thanks.htm>)

George Washington, October 3, 1789

“Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks.”

(<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/documents/thanksgiving/transcript.html>)

Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians, 1621, Plymouth, Massachusetts

1535 King Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church and created the Church of England.

During that period the Bible began to be *distributed to the common people*

Severe persecution broke out, under King Henry, then Queen Elizabeth, and then under King.

1593 law outlawed Puritanism and the persecution intensifies

1608, a group of separatists from the *Yorkshire village of Scrooby*, fearing for their lives, moved to the only place that offered a safe haven . . . Lyden, Holland.

1620 return to *England*, hoping to get the backing of the *Virginia Company* and start a new life in the New World colony of *Virginia*.

In the fall of 1620, *102 passengers* and *30 crewmembers* leave *Plymouth, England* for Virginia, but instead they land at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay.

Mayflower Compact – “. . . for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith . . .”