Day 1 Give Thanks to the Lord for He is Good…

* **Read** Psalm 118:1-9
* **Discuss**
  + According to verse 1, why should we give thanks to the Lord? (*Because “he is good.”*) Discuss ways that God is good.
  + Verse 6 says, “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” What does it mean to be on someone’s side?
  + What was the phrase that repeated several times? (*“His steadfast love endures forever.”*) What does “steadfast” mean? (*always there*)
* **Prayer**: Thank God for his steadfast love. It’s always there and always will be.

Day 2 King David’s Thanksgiving

* **Introduction**
  + *When we talk about “the first Thanksgiving,” we usually mean the first American Thanksgiving, with the Pilgrims and Native Americans. However, the Bible also tells us about times set aside for giving thanks to God.*
  + *King David lived about a thousand years after Abraham. By his time, there were hundreds of thousands of Israelites and they were living in the Promised Land. The ark of the covenant was a very special gold box God had told them to make. One time in a battle, some of their enemies took it. This made the Israelites very upset, but God helped them get the ark back. When this happened, King David wanted to have a big celebration to thank God.*
* **Read** 1 Chronicles 16:1-36
* **Discuss**
  + Why were David and the Israelites thankful? (*for God returning the ark, but also for keeping his covenant with Abraham and always taking care of his people*)
  + How did they thank God? (*They sacrificed burnt offerings and sang a song of thanksgiving to worship him.)*
  + Verse 12 says, “Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered.” Why is it important to remember and talk about the wonderful things God has done for us? (*It glorifies him, reminds us of his goodness, encourages us to put our trust in him, etc.*)
  + What are some good things God has done for us personally (as a family or church)?
* **Prayer** Thank God for his goodness toward us.

Day 3 King Solomon’s Thanksgiving

* **Introduction**
  + *After David died, his son Solomon became the new king. He built a magnificent temple for the Lord, a place for God’s presence to dwell and for God’s people to come worship. When the building was finished, Solomon called all the Israelites to come to the temple. They brought the ark of the covenant into the temple, and then Solomon prayed that God would come dwell in the temple and bless the people who prayed there.*
* **Read** 2 Chronicles 7:1-10
* **Discuss**
  + Why were Solomon and the Israelites thankful? (*Because God had come to dwell in the temple they built for him.)*
  + How did they show their thankfulness? (*Offering sacrifices, singing, and holding a feast.*)
  + How long did their feast last? (*7 days*)
  + How did the people feel after this huge celebration? (“*joyful and glad of heart*”)
* **Read** 1 Corinthians 6:19a “*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God*?”
  + Where does God’s Spirit live now? (*in the hearts of those who put their faith in Jesus*)
* **Prayer** Thank God for coming to live in us. Pray that he would help us to be joyful and glad of heart.

Day 4 Give Thanks in All Circumstances

* **Read** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (ESV)
  + Sing song from the Harrow Family CD [*Sing the Word from A to Z*](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001N85LIE/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=B001N85LIE&linkCode=as2&tag=histreaseek-20), which uses the NIV
  + Discuss the meaning of the verse.
* **Read** [*The Story of Thanksgiving*](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0824941640/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0824941640&linkCode=as2&tag=histreaseek-20)
  + Discuss the Pilgrims “circumstances.”
  + Would it have been easy to complain? What could they find to be thankful for?
* **Read** Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”
* **Prayer**: Is there anything you are anxious about? What can you be thankful for?

Day 5 …His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

* **Introduction**
  + **Read** [*My Thanksgiving Prayer*](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0310711622/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0310711622&linkCode=as2&tag=histreaseek-20)
  + Remember the repeating phrase in Psalm 118? (*His steadfast love endures forever.*)
  + Our psalm today uses the same phrase after each verse.
* **Read** Psalm 136:1-9, with everyone saying the refrain together.
* **Discuss**
  + Besides God’s love enduring forever, what was this passage about? (*God’s creation.*)
  + How does God’s creation show us his love?
  + What are your favorite things about God’s creation?
* **Prayer** Thank God for creating this beautiful world for us to live in.

Day 6 Being Thankful *Every* Day

* **Introduction**Thanksgiving may be over, but the Bible tells us many times that we should have an attitude of thanksgiving every day. Today our reading comes from a letter from the Apostle Paul to the church at Colosse.
* **Read** Colossians 3:15-17 *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
* **Discuss**
  + What are some things we can be thankful for every day? (*food, a home, God’s presence, family and friends, books, toys, etc.*)
* **Read** [*Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks*](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0448422867/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0448422867&linkCode=as2&tag=histreaseek-20)
* **Prayer** Thank God for all the blessings he gives us.