**Giving at Thanksgiving**



***A Resource to encourage faith at home***

 **Editor: Jan Mutter. M.T.S.**

**What does Thanksgiving really mean?**

**THANKSGIVING:** A prayer expressing gratitude, a public acknowledgement or celebration of God’s goodness.

**What the Bible says:**

Most families are used to celebrating “Thanksgiving” with a large family meal, extra time off of work and sporting events. But if we want to **teach our children the importance of being thankful**, and **help them to cultivate an attitude of service** towards others, it is good to look at God’s Word, the Bible to find out what God says about this celebration.

##### These are the instructions that God gave to Moses to pass on to the nation of Israel for their harvest celebration:

##### **Deut 16:9-1**2 NLT

9 “Count off seven weeks from when you first begin to cut the grain at the time of harvest. 10 Then celebrate the Festival of Harvest to honor the Lord your God. **Bring him a voluntary offering in proportion to the blessings you have received from him.** 11 This is a time to celebrate before the Lord your God at the designated place of worship he will choose for his name to be honored. Celebrate with your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites from your towns, and the foreigners, orphans, and widows who live among you. 12 Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, so be careful to obey all these decrees.

In **Leviticus 23:22** (NIRV) God tells his special nation Israel to make provisions for the poor when they bring in their harvest.

" 'Suppose you are gathering your crops. Then do not harvest all the way to the edges of your field. And do not pick up the grain you missed. **Leave some for poor people and outsiders.** I am the Lord your God.' "

And in **Psalm 112:1,4**

1 Praise the Lord.
   Blessed is the one who has respect for the Lord.
      He finds great delight when he obeys God's commands.

4 Even in the darkness **light shines** on honest people.
      It shines on **those who are kind and tender and godly.**

**What can we do?**

1. **Make worship a focus on Thanksgiving weekend**

Read these verses from the Bible before attending worship at your church. Prepare your heart to be thankful to God for his goodness to you and your family.

1. **Plan a family celebration** that honours God and includes people who may not have a family to celebrate Thanksgiving with.

**A Thanksgiving Prayer**

Oh, God, when I have food help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless;
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer;
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion.
Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.

~ Samuel. F. Pugh

1. **Decide how your family can give to someone in need as a special thanksgiving offering to God**

**Stanley Park Baptist Church**

**Thanksgiving Service Project 2011**



**Instructions:**

* Take the brown paper bag provided. **Fill it with non-perishable food** to be donated to the Food Bank. *(check the list of food items needed)*
* **Bring it back** to the church. We will take all donations to the food bank.
* **Pray** that those who receive this food will know God’s goodness in their lives.