

NOVEMBER 24, 2025

A PSALM FOR THANKSGIVING.....2

Psalm 100

ABOUT CAPITOL MINISTRIES8

Leading Thanksgiving Devotions with Your Family



Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us, and you should be prepared to lead your family spiritually. As is the custom Capitol Ministries, we offer the following model to empower you for this special day with family and friends. You may not use everything that follows, but take what might be helpful and spend some time crafting a plan for a spiritually growing, memory-building investment.

If the trajectory of our country is going to change, it must begin with our hearts. America's systemic problem is spiritual in nature; therefore, we must first steward our own hearts and the hearts of our families before speaking about changing the direction of our country. Anything less is hypocritical. May God use the following thoughts to aid in crafting a special, constructive day centered in our love for Jesus. Let us give thanks for all He has done for us! If you need help in preparing, reach out to your Ministry Leader. You'll find him to be a great resource.

We at Capitol Ministries have much to be thankful for in the honor of serving you. Together, in partnership, we continue to launch new ministries in town halls, state capitals, and foreign nations this year and are poised to begin many more in the months to come. We are grateful and thankful for all that God has done in and through you.

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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

White House Cabinet and Governors: Wednesdays 8am (EST), light breakfast served

Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served

House Members: Thursdays 8am, Natural Resources, Longworth 1334, hot breakfast served





A PSALM FOR THANKSGIVING



Psalm 100



*Shout joyfully to the LORD,
all the earth.
Serve the LORD with
gladness;
Come before Him with
joyful singing.
Know that the LORD
Himself is God;
It is He who has made us,
and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the
sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with
thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him,
bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His lovingkindness
is everlasting
And His faithfulness to
all generations.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The following is a suggested outline to help prepare you for leading and facilitating a meaningful and spiritually nourishing time of family gathering and devotions during Thanksgiving.

II. PREPARING FOR THE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

A. ANNOUNCING DEVOTIONS

When you invite your family members and are informing them of the time to arrive and the time you will sit down to dinner, mention the family devotion in the conversation. By preparing them, people will not be surprised when you transition into this part of the day. Providing advance notice will serve to take pressure off of you when the time arrives to segue into the devotion. (Don't surprise your guests.)

B. DRESSING FOR DEVOTIONS

Give prior consideration as to how you will dress. Dress one step above your guests—but only one step. Your dress should reflect the season, warmth, love, nobility, and a sense of seriousness. Remember, how you dress should reflect that in the coming moments you will be God's spokesman to your family; don't take that lightly or discount the sobriety of your duties.

C. TIMING DEVOTIONS

You might want to have devotions after the main meal, during dessert. Make sure the TV and background music are off and not competing for attention. Kindly inform everyone that they need to "turn off all electronic devices during takeoff and landing." It's best that you and the others aren't distracted by a football game or the young ones' text messaging. Serve dessert and beverages. Serving them helps to take the edge off, especial-

ly for those who might not personally know Christ.

D. TRANSITIONING INTO DEVOTIONS

As you circulate among your guests and invite them into the room that you have previously determined is best for this purpose, make appropriate, edifying-only small talk as people settle in. You are starting to set the tone. Be extra sensitive to make your guests feel comfortable. Help move the chairs and bring people coffee. Manifest a servant's heart.

III. BEGINNING THE FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

A. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Express your heartfelt gratitude that you could all be together during this wonderful time of the year.

B. PRAISE YOUR WIFE

Nothing is more important in the formation and stability of your children and grandchildren than for them to see how much you love your wife. Follow the ACTS outline as you speak about her:

ACTS Outline

ADORATION

Several qualities you most like



CONFESSION

Your bad habits she puts up with



THANKSGIVING

Express gratefulness to her



SUPPLICATION

Mention that you pray for her



C. INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS

Speak personally and edifyingly into the lives of your family members. This will require forethought to be most effective.

Ask some family members to share what they are especially thankful for this year.

Very importantly, this is where you are setting a long-term tone and culture in terms of the interpersonal relationships among your clan. This is a time to circle the wagons and huddle with your loved ones.

IV. OPEN THE SCRIPTURES TOGETHER

Prepare copies for everyone of the Scripture passage Psalm 100.

A. READ THE PASSAGE

Ask your best reader to read Psalm 100. This isn't so much a time to exegete the passage as it is to open the Scripture together as a part of your family tradition.

B. EXPLAIN THE PASSAGE

Once the reading is completed, be ready to share some of your insights of the passage that are self-evident from the reading.

C. SING A HYMN TOGETHER

The hymn "Give Thanks" written by Henry Smith, is very appropriate for singing after reading Psalm 100. (Lyrics are easily accessible on-line.) If not you, defer to someone else to lead who is gifted in music.

V. SHARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Prepare beforehand your personal conversion story. Speak no longer than

three minutes. Refrain from reciting every detail of your life. Mention the following areas: an effective testimony includes three irreducible minimums.

Your life before receiving Christ

∞

Specifically, how you received Christ

∞

Life changes since you received Christ

Your main objective is to model for your family how they too can receive Christ if they haven't already. Edit your comments accordingly. You are modeling a powerful living example and tool as to how they too can receive Christ, if not now, at a later date.

VI. SHARE THE GOSPEL

There is nothing more important to accomplish as a husband and father than to lead your kids to Christ—now is a good time! Here is how to transition:

A. APPLY THE PASSAGE

It is fitting at this point, having read Scripture, sung a hymn, and having given your testimony, to make some personal applications. These former ingredients will serve as pillars to support your quest for the others' consideration of Christ.

Ask your family members (if they haven't already) to put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation—just as you did. Consider and incorporate the special warmth people typically feel at Thanksgiving. Don't preach; emphasize gentleness.

B. GOSPEL VERSES TO USE

Look up the following passages prior to the devotion and mark them in your Bible. Don't read to them from this study.

These will aid you in sharing the Gospel in a succinct and thoughtful way.

Notice how these verses progress through the plan of salvation—make appropriate transitions to achieve a similar, smooth progression.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1–2).

C. INVITE OTHERS TO ASK JESUS INTO THEIR HEART

Pray out loud the following prayer, inviting anyone who would like to trust Jesus for his or her salvation to pray silently along with you:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. I realize that I have sinned and fall short of Your standard of perfection and am in need of not only a Savior, but a Lord Who will always lead me in the right direction. I open the door of my life today and ask You to save me and begin to change my life for good and Your glory. Amen!"



*Making Disciples
of Jesus Christ
in the Political Arena
Throughout the World*



Capitol Ministries[®] provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders.

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At a later time, you need to personally and individually follow up with your family members; ask them if they prayed that prayer with you. In the days that follow, minister to each accordingly as the family shepherd. Continue to cultivate your own understanding of being the family shepherd.

VII. CLOSING THE FAMILY DEVOTION

From the bottom of your heart, express how important this time has been to you.

**It is very likely you'll face
heartfelt spiritual warfare
in the form of lacking
courage or doubting
you should do this.**

Expect that you may even put off some family members going in. You are definitely doing the best thing you could possibly do for your family!

A. SING THE HYMN AGAIN

B. CLOSE WITH PRAYER

You might choose to have someone else in the family who you know has a strong walk with Christ to close in prayer.

C. EXPRESS APPRECIATION

Once again, take the opportunity to set a tone of love. Abundantly shower others with His love and tell them how much you appreciate each one of them. How can you spend more time with your family members? For someone as busy as you are, your prioritization of time is probably your best way to express your love and extend your influence for Christ.

VIII. SUMMARY

May God richly bless you as you lay hold of your spiritual leadership responsibilities. This is what God has called you to, and you need to serve your family in this way in service to Him. A family devotion is one of the most important functions you will perform in life—with the greatest return on investment!

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