Date: 11/26/2016

Title: Give Thanks!

Theme: God wants us to be thankful every day.

Objects: Pictures of the first Thanksgiving. Search a Word puzzle on Thanksgiving.

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV) 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Talk about giving thanks… Did any of you celebrate Thanksgiving this week?

How many had a big feast and had as much food as you could eat?

Do you remember the food that you had for Thanksgiving dinner? How many had turkey?

Instead of turkey and stuffing, we had chicken Supreme Casserole, which is like turkey and stuffing for vegetarians. Then we had fresh cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, buttercup squash, peas, and green bean casserole. For dessert: pumpkin pie, blueberry pie, and ice cream. Yum Yum!

How many bowed their heads and said the blessing and gave thanks to God before they ate?

The Bible says that we should give thanks to God for everything. So we should always pray before we eat.

Why do we celebrate a day of thanks giving every year?

Thanksgiving was made a holiday by President Abraham Lincoln back in 1863, during the civil war, when he proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November.

But the first Thanksgiving feast occurred many years before.

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims who landed in Plymouth, MA in 1620.

They came to this country to find religious freedom, so they could worship God the way they wanted to rather than the way the state church told them to.

When their ship landed in Plymouth, MA, they didn’t have any food and no houses to live in.

The winter was very cold, and nearly half of the pilgrims died in the first year. At one point there were only 5 men well enough to take care of the sick.

But the Pilgrims thanked God for the little they had. They prayed every day and asked God to help them to survive.

Their prayers were answered when an Indian chief brought an Indian named Squanto to help them.

He taught them how to plant Indian corn, how to trap beaver and how to hunt for food.

In the fall, they had so much food that they decided to have a feast of Thanksgiving and invite the Indians to share all the food.

Here’s a picture of what the first Thanksgiving feast might have looked like.

 Do you know how many Indians came to the feast? Ninety!! They didn’t have enough food to feed so many Indians!

But that was no problem, because the Indians brought with them four deer and 12 wild turkeys to eat.

And maybe that’s why people still eat turkey for Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday, because it reminds us to be thankful to God whether we have much or little.

But for the Christian, every day should be a day of giving thanks to God.

What are you thankful for? Can you think of anything you are thankful for?

[Suggest things to be thankful for: family, friends, health, home, car, toys, food, clothes, school, teachers, the Bible, Jesus].

Let’s thank God right now for all the blessings we have, what do you say?

[Pass out search-a-word.]