



# Family Devotions



# Praying with Thanksgiving

**Scripture Passage:** Psalm 100

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 100:1-2

“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!  
Serve the LORD with gladness;  
Come before His presence with singing.”

## For My Family:

In our last devotion, we read that we should “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6-7).

We learned that when we are afraid or anxious, we should turn to Jesus through prayer with *thanksgiving*. It is wonderful and comforting to remind ourselves of all the things that we can thank Jesus for. Sometimes when we are feeling sad or worried, it can be hard to think of the good things that God has done for us. However, God is so good that He actually gave us a whole Psalm that helps us to remember some of those good things that we can be thankful for.

Psalm 100 starts off by calling us to praise God with singing, to come before Him making a joyful sound because, and this is one of the most important things to remember, HE IS GOD! He is in control, He sees it all, He knows it all, and if He is in control, that means that I don't have to be. He is the one who made *us*, and Psalm 100 tells us that we belong to Him. He is our Good Shepherd, we are His sheep, and where are we? In *His* pasture. Even though things around us might feel crazy or confusing, we can be thankful that we are His, and we are with Him.

Psalm 100 also tells us that we can “enter into His gates.” The God who made the Universe and everything in it invites us to come and stand before Him. He wants us to come into His courts with thanksgiving and praise. How amazing is that!

There are a few more things that Psalm 100 tells us we should be thankful for. It tells us that, “He is Good, His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations” (Verse 5). He is in control, we are with Him, He invites us to come in and speak with Him, He is good, He is merciful, and He is true! When we are worried about the things going on around us or confused by whatever situation we are in, these are all wonderful things to think about and thank Him for.

There is one more BIG thing that we should always remember to thank God for. He sent His son Jesus Christ into the world to take away our sin. Jesus died on a cross, even though He had done nothing wrong, and God the Father placed our punishment on Him. Because of what Jesus did, we can live with Him forever and look forward to the day when we stand in glory with Him.

Of course these are just a few things we can be thankful for. I bet that as a family we could think of 10 more things that we can be thankful for right now.

### **Questions for Young Children:**

What animal does Psalm 100 say that we are like?

What is one thing about God that you are thankful for?

What did Jesus do that we should always remember to give thanks for?

### **Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:**

What does it mean to enter God's courts? How do we do that? (Through prayer)

Even though things right now are different, what are some things that have been good about staying at home?

What's been the most difficult thing the last week?

What has God been teaching you during this time?