


4 Week Study of  
*Biblical Feasts*  
for  
*Thanksgiving*

*with Ashley Hooker*





*“On the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets. As an aroma pleasing to the Lord, offer a burnt offering of one young bull, one ram and seven male lambs a year old, all without a defect. With the bull offer a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil, with the ram, two tenths; and with each of the seven lambs, one tenth. Include one male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for you. These are in addition to the monthly and daily burnt offerings with their grain offerings and drink offerings as specified. They are food offerings presented to the Lord, a pleasing aroma.”*

*Numbers 29:1-6*

*“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet”*

*1 Corinthians 15:51-52*







# Feast of Trumpets

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The Feast of Trumpets is one of three Jewish holidays celebrated at the completion of the harvest. It was on the first day of the Jewish New Year. God meticulously instructed the Israelites in every aspect of that day. The people were to bring certain offerings, in a precise amount and manner, to Him. Most importantly, they were to sound the trumpets. It was on this day that God was to be given all the praise and glory for a successful year and harvest.

Other instruments were available in Old Testament times, but the trumpet sound was different. It drew your attention. It could not be ignored. God used this instrument to remind His people of all He done for them. He never wanted them to forget that alone, they may have never been brought out of Egypt or survived 40 years in the desert.

As I thought about the Feast of Trumpets, I immediately thought about my husband who played the trumpet in high school and college. He would tell us stories about the songs the band would play and the reaction that came from the crowds. One Christmas season at our church, he brought his trumpet out of retirement and played for the congregation. I remember being in awe of the sound. It led to a deep feeling of thankfulness that God chose to send His son as a baby into this sinful world.

God wants to remind us today that He is still Lord over our lives. He is the one that brings us through the rough waters, the difficult circumstances, the heartaches, the life changes, and all uncertainties. He sends trumpet sounds to us. In this season of thanksgiving, let us remember our trumpet sounds and strive to be a trumpet sound for others.

## *Let's Pray*

*Holy Spirit,*

*Make us aware of Your lordship over our lives. Send the trumpet sound so that we may heed your guidance and direction for our lives. May we never forget what you have done for us when you sent your son, Jesus, to die for our sins.*

*Amen*

# Study Questions

1. Read the following Bible passages and make note of how God shows His lordship in each one.

- Joshua 6:4-20
- Zechariah 9:14-16
- Joel 2:1
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Revelation 8:6-9:19
- Revelation 11:15-19

2. Consider a time when you were reminded of God's lordship over your life. How did that make you feel? What can you do to help others remember God's lordship over their life?

3. What are some reasons you may be not hearing the trumpet sounds in your life? What steps can you take to better hear the trumpets?



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*“The Lord again spoke to Moses: The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. You are to hold a sacred assembly and practice self-denial; you are to present a fire-offering to the Lord. On this particular day you are not to do any work, for it is a Day of Atonement to make atonement for yourselves before the Lord your God. If any person does not practice self-denial on this particular day, he is to be cut off from his people.”*

*Leviticus 23:26-29*

*“But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is not of this creation), he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow, sprinkling those who are defiled, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?”*

*Hebrews 9:11-15*





# The Day of Atonement

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The Day of Atonement is the highest of all Jewish holy days. The harvest was complete, and it was time for God's people to atone for the sins of the year. It was a time for reflection and restoration. The first Day of Atonement was observed during the time of Aaron (Leviticus 16:8-34). The high priest would enter the Holy of Holies with a burnt offering to the Lord. The offering consisted of one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs. In addition to the burnt offering, the priests were to present a grain offering and one male goat as a sin offering.

Today, the Day of Atonement is known as Yom Kippur. Jewish people begin the celebration with a feast on the eve of Yom Kippur. Then they fast for 25 hours. During the fast, they attend services in their local synagogue and at the end of the 25 hours, family and friends gather together again for a feast.

The instruction to take time out from our busy lives and reflect on what God did for us is often forgotten today. We forget that God sent His son, Jesus, to be the fulfillment of our sins. We no longer have to choose the best animal from our herds or gather the grain from our stores. Each day should be a day of atonement. Each day we should remember that Jesus willingly went to the cross for every one of us, and that is something we can rejoice in.

## *Let's Pray*

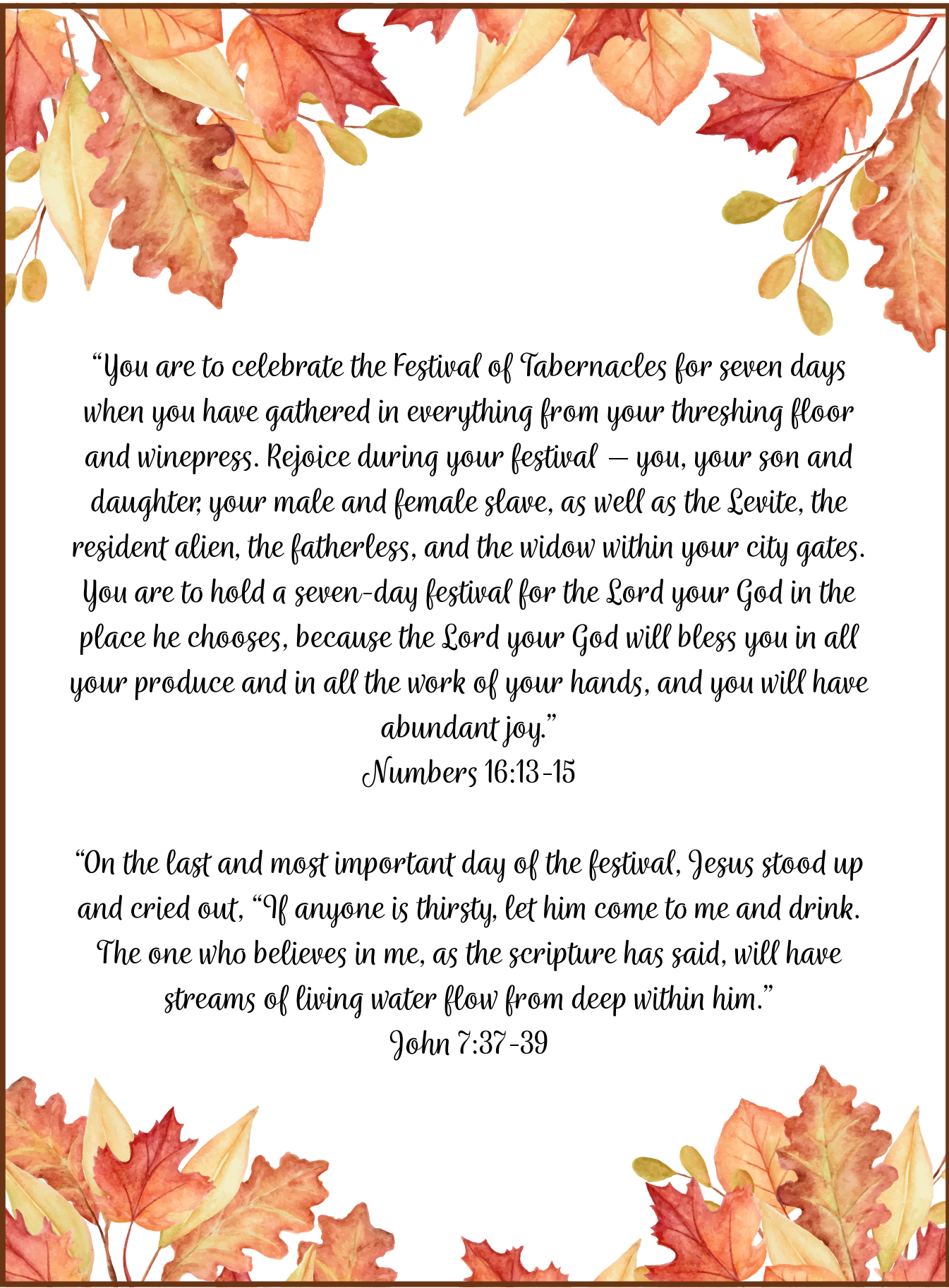
Lord,

Thank You for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, the High Priest who atones for our sins. Bring to our attention any sin within us that offends you. Lead us to a place of repentance and restoration.

Amen







*“You are to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days when you have gathered in everything from your threshing floor and winepress. Rejoice during your festival – you, your son and daughter, your male and female slave, as well as the Levite, the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow within your city gates. You are to hold a seven-day festival for the Lord your God in the place he chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, and you will have abundant joy.”*

*Numbers 16:13-15*

*“On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.”*

*John 7:37-39*





# Feast of Tabernacles

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The Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot, is the last festival commanded by God to His people. It is also one of three pilgrimages the Israelites were to make. During the Festival of Tabernacles, the Israelites would build temporary housing in commemoration of the 40 years they spent in the desert. For seven days the Israelites would make offerings, eat together, spend time with fellow Jews, and praise God for bringing them to the promised land.

The Feast of Tabernacles was a sacred time that marked the end of the agricultural year for the Israelites. It was and continues to be an encouragement for communal celebration of the divine protection God gives to those He loves. During the festivities, the Israelites focused on the fragility of life. They remembered that all the necessities of life were provided to them as they wandered through the desert.

Christians today struggle with the mentality of “keeping up with the Joneses.” We believe that if we are not comfy in our large homes or drive new cars we are not being blessed by God. There was a time for me when I was living in an apartment four hours from my family and friends; I thought God was punishing me. I didn’t have the house I wanted, and my car was giving me trouble. It was easy to forget that I had a roof over my head, food on my table, and people I called friends just next door.

We may not make a physical pilgrimage to Jerusalem each year, but we can set aside time each day to reflect and praise our Lord for the gifts he gives us. He is our protection. He is our provider. He is our Lord. The death of Jesus is our deliverance from sin and the ultimate provision to be with him in heaven.

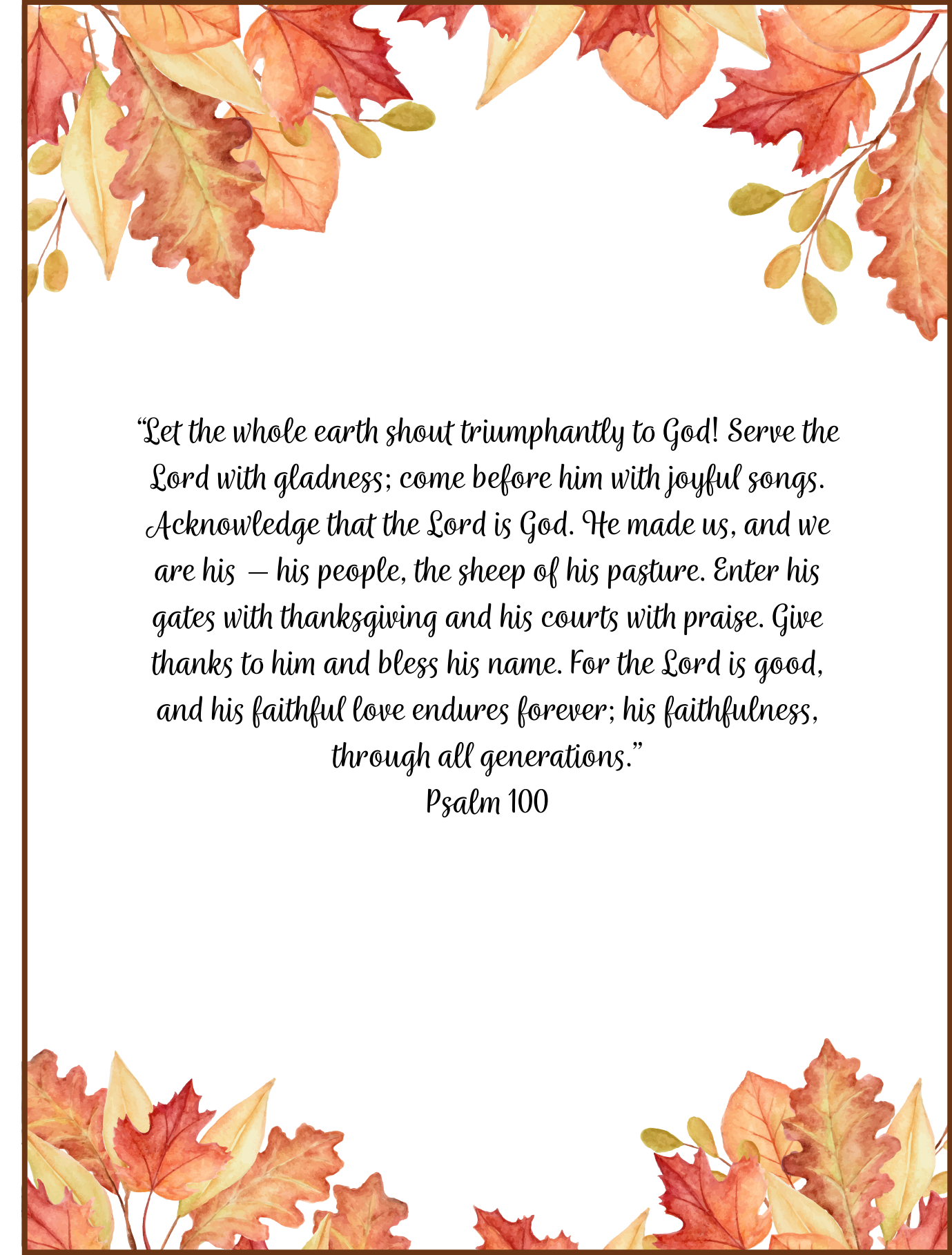
## *Let's Pray*

Lord,

Your blessings are abundant! Thank you for your protection and provision in this life. But most of all thank you for the gift of eternal life.

Amen





*“Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to God! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are his — his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good, and his faithful love endures forever; his faithfulness, through all generations.”*

*Psalm 100*





In 1565, the Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez de Avile invited members of the Timucua tribe to feast with his crew in St. Augustine, Florida. During the feast, a mass was held giving thanks to God for a safe arrival. In 1621, the pilgrims at Plymouth held a feast with members of the Wampanoag Native American tribe to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. George Washington issued a thanksgiving proclamation in 1789 to commemorate the end of the American Revolution. Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving each year on the fourth Thursday in November.

My family would always celebrate Thanksgiving with a meal at my granny's house. My mom would cook the turkey and a side dish to bring to the table. I remember watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade with mom and dad while the aroma of turkey was filling the house. At granny's, my cousins and I would eat until our bellies were going to pop and then play outside in the leaves or climb trees. I may not have known what Thanksgiving was all about, but I do remember always feeling joyful because my family was together.

We should be thankful for all the moments in our lives because they are all a gift from God. Can you imagine what this life would be like without God? I believe we would make a huge mess of things. This year, as you gather with family to enjoy the turkey and pumpkin pie, don't forget to give thanks to the one that died for you so that you may have life more abundantly than you could ever imagine.

## *Let's Pray*

Lord,

We thank you for all the blessings and trials of this life. We thank you for our family, friends, and coworkers. We thank you for your provision, guidance, protection, and love. We thank you most for the gift of salvation. May we never forget what it took for that gift to be given.

Amen





# Praise God!

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Thanksgiving celebrations have been taking place in some form or another since ancient times. It has always been important to humankind that we give thanks for all we have been given each year. God instructed His people to celebrate with thanksgiving.

This year, as you gather with family, take a moment to remember how God has not only blessed you but the ones you love. Our God deserves all the praise and the glory!

**Ashley Hooker** is a freelance writer passionate about missions. She has collaborated with mission teams in North Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, West Virginia, and Vermont. Presently, she lives in North Carolina with her husband and two children, where she fulfills roles as a pastor's wife, a dance mom, and a farm girl. Photo credits: ©Getty Images/dwiputrirats, ©Getty Images/Krit Kongjundee, Unsplash/Debby Hudson