

read psalm 107 (the message)

107 1-3 Oh, thank God—he's so good!
His love never runs out.

All of you set free by God, tell the world!
Tell how he freed you from oppression,
Then rounded you up from all over the place,
from the four winds, from the seven seas.

4-9 Some of you wandered for years in the desert,
looking but not finding a good place to live,
Half-starved and parched with thirst,
staggering and stumbling, on the brink of exhaustion.
Then, in your desperate condition, you called out to God.

He got you out in the nick of time;
He put your feet on a wonderful road
that took you straight to a good place to live.
So thank God for his marvelous love,
for his miracle mercy to the children he loves.
He poured great draughts of water down parched throats;
the starved and hungry got plenty to eat.

10-16 Some of you were locked in a dark cell,
cruelly confined behind bars,
Punished for defying God's Word,
for turning your back on the High God's counsel—
A hard sentence, and your hearts so heavy,
and not a soul in sight to help.

Then you called out to God in your desperate condition;
he got you out in the nick of time.
He led you out of your dark, dark cell,
broke open the jail and led you out.
So thank God for his marvelous love,
for his miracle mercy to the children he loves;
He shattered the heavy jailhouse doors,
he snapped the prison bars like matchsticks!

17-22 Some of you were sick because you'd lived a bad life,
your bodies feeling the effects of your sin;
You couldn't stand the sight of food,
so miserable you thought you'd be better off dead.
Then you called out to God in your desperate condition;
he got you out in the nick of time.

He spoke the word that healed you,
that pulled you back from the brink of death.
So thank God for his marvelous love,
for his miracle mercy to the children he loves;
Offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
tell the world what he's done—sing it out!

23-32 Some of you set sail in big ships;
you put to sea to do business in faraway ports.
Out at sea you saw God in action,
saw his breathtaking ways with the ocean:
With a word he called up the wind—
an ocean storm, towering waves!

You shot high in the sky, then the bottom dropped out;
your hearts were stuck in your throats.
You were spun like a top, you reeled like a drunk,
you didn't know which end was up.

Then you called out to God in your desperate condition;
he got you out in the nick of time.
He quieted the wind down to a whisper,
put a muzzle on all the big waves.
And you were so glad when the storm died down,
and he led you safely back to harbor.

So thank God for his marvelous love,
for his miracle mercy to the children he loves.
Lift high your praises when the people assemble,
shout Hallelujah when the elders meet!

33-41 God turned rivers into wasteland,
springs of water into sunbaked mud;
Luscious orchards became alkali flats
because of the evil of the people who lived there.
Then he changed wasteland into fresh pools of water,
arid earth into springs of water,

Brought in the hungry and settled them there;
they moved in—what a great place to live!
They sowed the fields, they planted vineyards,
they reaped a bountiful harvest.

He blessed them and they prospered greatly;
their herds of cattle never decreased.
But abuse and evil and trouble declined
as he heaped scorn on princes and sent them away.
He gave the poor a safe place to live,
treated their clans like well-cared-for sheep.

42-43 Good people see this and are glad;
bad people are speechless, stopped in their tracks.
If you are really wise, you'll think this over—
it's time you appreciated God's deep love.

MEMORIES & MARSHMALLOWS

- Ask the oldest family member to describe the earliest Thanksgiving celebration they can remember
- Take short pieces of PVC pipe, add marshmallows, treat as blow gun. More fun than watching a football game you don't care about!

Seeing & Believing

Make placemats from heavy white paper. Have every family member write their name across the top of their placemats. Then place the mats around the room letting every family member write one thing they admire or want to celebrate in the person whose name is across the top.

toddler time:
after the meal
let a toddler
pick a game
and everyone
must play!

LIGHTING CANDLES WHILE THANKING
GOD FOR SPECIFIC THINGS OR USE
THE CANDLES TO THANK GOD FOR
THE LIVES OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS
WHO ARE NOT WITH YOU DURING
THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON.

Everyone writes something they
thank God for on index cards.
Cards are combined and shuffled.
During the time together, cards are
drawn and read aloud.

pray Luke 2:12 over the kids—That they would grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people—just as the child Jesus did.

First United Methodist

Sedalia

BIG IDEAS
THANKSGIVING 2012
www.firstsayyes.com

MAKE A WORDLE POSTER FOR YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD.



It's easy and fun. Go to www.wordle.net. Click on the word "create" and begin typing attributes, virtues, character traits or other words that come to mind when you think of your special loved one. (It will allow you up to 150 words). If you want a first and last name to appear together you will need to type them without a space in between. Go to the "random" button at the bottom to see other color schemes and arrangements of the concept words. Print out poster and hang in the child's room. What a way to encourage!

Oh
 give Thanks
 to the Lord for
 He is good and
 His steadfast
 love endures
 forever.
 PSALM 107:1



(CUT OUT THE ABOVE AND PUT IT SOMEWHERE YOU WILL READ IT FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU A GRATEFUL HEART!)

Giving Thanks!

Serve Thanksgiving Dinner at a local agency before your family gathers for a meal. In most every community there are places you can volunteer... or go by the hospital, nursing home, fire department, police department and take a plate of "goodies" for those who work to keep our communities healthy, well and safe!



take tin foil and shape your own turkey. Then have a "gobbling" contest! FILM IT! Be sure to post it on YOUTUBE for all of us to SEE! alternate: trace around your hand then do the rest.

BIG IDEAS THANKSGIVING 2012

DOWNLOAD THIS SHEET FROM OUR WEBSITE
WWW.FIRSTSAYYES.COM (LOOK FOR ABOVE LOGO)

MAKE A HUGE PILE OF LEAVES AND JUMP IN THEM! find as many colors of leaves as you can, then (with each leaf) take turns saying one thing for which you are thankful.

