

Remember to be Thankful

"I remember what the Lord did. I remember the miracles You did long ago."

Psalm 77:11

Thanksgiving:

- Each family has their tradition of how they celebrate Thanksgiving each year. Some of the traditions may be similar to what most people do and some may be very different and unique.
- What are some traditions that you and your family share during Thanksgiving? (Allow students to share how they celebrate.)
- Americans celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November.
- Many people who sailed on the Mayflower left their homes so they could freely practice their faith in God. The people that arrived in America were called pilgrims. A Native American named Squanto taught the pilgrims how to plant corn and how to survive in the new land.
After the first crop of corn was harvested the pilgrims celebrated a time of Thanksgiving. They were thankful for their new home, new friends and for the food that God had provided them.
Thanksgiving became a yearly celebration to remember and thank God for all that He had done.
- Whenever we stop and take time to remember what God has done for us, we can't help but to be thankful.

This brief summary of our history and how we celebrate Thanksgiving every year makes me think of another group of people who left a land where they once were slaves and had no freedom. They were rescued and delivered by God and were given a new place to call home. Can anyone guess who I am talking about? (The Israelites, Jews, God's people, Israelites)

The Israelites had been slaves to the Egyptians for over 400 years. God heard their cries and sent Moses to rescue His people and deliver them. God freed His people and led them to the land He had promised them. It took forty years for the Israelites to finally live in the land that God had promised. As the Israelites traveled through the wilderness God gave Moses specific instructions for His people so they could know how to worship Him.

God also gave instructions for special celebrations for His people. Today we are going to focus on the celebration that is like our celebration of Thanksgiving.

The people had been blessed with so many things and yet just like us they forgot the wonderful things He had done and turned away from Him. As His people forgot His blessings they turned away from Him and sinned against the laws He had given them to live as His people. God warned His people that if they did not turn away from their sin and return to Him and follow His ways, He would punish them. After many years watching His people forget Him and sin against Him, God punished His people and had enemies capture them and take them from the Promised Land. They were removed from the land that God gave them and were taken to live as slaves in other countries. When God's people turned their hearts back to Him, they were allowed to return to the Promised Land. When they returned to the Promised Land they had a lot of work to do to repair the damage that was done to the city of Jerusalem where God's temple used to stand.

Remember we just learned about Nehemiah and the people building the wall around Jerusalem? What happened AFTER that?

Read : Get Ready! From The Jesus Storybook Bible – pages 170-175.

Discuss and Review:

We read: It had been many years since God's people had been taught what God's Laws were. Ezra was a priest and teacher of God's laws.

God's people were hungry for God's Words. They had spent so many years without His teachings that they wanted to hear and understand what His Word said. God's people listened attentively from morning until noon as Ezra taught God's Words.

- What is your attitude when it seems like the church service is never going to end? When God's Words are being taught we should be attentive to listen and obey what He is trying to teach us.
- As the people heard God's laws their hearts were broken because they realized that they had not been obeying God's commands because they had not remembered what He told them. **How do you respond when you realize you have disobeyed what God's word teaches you?**
- When we realize we have sinned against God we should be sad. As we read these verses it's not that the Israelites were not supposed to mourn or be sad because of their sin. On this particular day the Israelites were told that they were not to mourn because it was a time God wanted them to rejoice.

In [Nehemiah 8:13-15](#). As the Israelites continued to gather together to hear God's laws, they realized that there was a celebration that God wanted them to celebrate every year to remember what He had done for them. This celebration is called the Feast of Tabernacles.

This Feast was a time of Thanksgiving for the Israelites to celebrate. This celebration took place every year and lasted for seven days. Because the celebration took place during the fall harvest God's people would thank Him for providing them to receive food from their gardens.

God wanted His people to always remember how He led them out of Egypt and provided for them as they traveled through the wilderness to the land He promised to give them.

As a way to remember that time they were to build booths to remember the years they lived in the wilderness.

Read [Nehemiah 8:16-17](#).

Although it was a time of remembering the difficulties the Israelites faced many years ago, the celebration was a time of great rejoicing. As they remembered their difficulties, they remembered how God loved them and took care of them. For seven days as the Israelites celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles they continued to gather together and hear Ezra teach God's Law.

How would you feel if you were a child living during the times of Nehemiah 8? Would you like to live in a tent made by branches for seven days as you heard stories of all the great things God had done?

As the Israelites remembered all that God had done for them they could not help but to thank Him and praise Him.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving think of what has God done for you that you have forgotten about? In our busy lives it's easy to forget the blessings God has given to each one of us.

Close in Prayer:

Memory Verse:

"I remember what the Lord did. I remember the miracles You did long ago."

Psalm 77:11

Activities:

Watch Nehemiah & Ezra

- <https://youtu.be/BU-NNIfP11c>

CRAFT IDEA:

Thankful Jars – craft kits provided by Oriental Trading Company

Thanksgiving Placemats – provided by Oriental Trading Company

Material: craft kits, crayons, markers



Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com/> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.

OrientalTradingCo.com

Allen Hamlin FBC Kids Video