

Thanksgiving Weekend

A Harvest of Thanksgiving – 1 John 3:1,2; 21-23

Discussion Points

October 13, 2019

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to. ²But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. (1 John 3:1,2; *The Message*)

Read & Reflect

1. Read 1 John 3:1,2. Read it to yourself a couple times. What part of the text stands out for you?
2. Scan the rest of the chapter. What is the point that John is making in this entire passage?

Explore

3. As you reflect on your Thanksgiving celebrations, what is your motivation to give thanks?

<input type="checkbox"/> I have so much	<input type="checkbox"/> I know God
<input type="checkbox"/> I owe God thanks	<input type="checkbox"/> I love God
<input type="checkbox"/> I know it comes from God	<input type="checkbox"/> I know others don't have what I have
4. What are some of the things you are especially thankful for right now?
5. In what ways do you express your thanks to God? What does it mean to live a grateful life?

Pray

- Use the following to shape your prayers of thanksgiving (from Q&A116, Heidelberg Catechism):

Q. Why do Christians need to pray?

A. Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.¹ And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking God for them.²

¹ Ps. 50:14-15; 116:12-19; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; ² Matt. 7: 1:9-137-8; Luke 1