

I Am Thankful For...

- The teenager who's watching TV instead of doing the dishes: he's at home and not on the streets.
- The taxes I pay: I'm employed.
- The mess to clean up after a party: I've got friends.
- A lawn that needs mowing and windows that need cleaning: I have a home.
- My heating bill: I'm warm.
- The pile of laundry and ironing: I have clothes to wear.
- Weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day: I am capable of hard work.
- The alarm that goes off every morning: I am alive.
- My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: I am blessed and loved for all eternity.

(Adapted from <http://www.joke-archives.com/inspire/iamthankfulfor.html>)

Monday – Shout!

"He was never regarded as a mere moral teacher. He did not produce that effect on any of the people who actually met Him. He produced mainly three results---Hatred---Terror---Adoration. There was no trace of people expressing mild admiration." C.S. Lewis, 20th c. Anglo-Irish writer

1. Please read Psalm 100. What pictures come to mind as you read verses 1-2? What is gladness to you?
2. How does Isaiah 55:9-13 use nature to describe the relationship God offers his people?
3. Now look at Luke 19:37-40. Why does the presence of God lead some people to exuberant praise and other people to criticism and resentment?

Making it Personal: Does your relationship with God cause gladness in your heart? Spend time talking with God about it today.

Tuesday – Knowing God Because He Knows Us

"The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him." C.S. Lewis

1. Please read Psalm 100:3. What are we to know about God? What has he done for us?
2. According to Psalm 139:1-16, what part of our existence can we claim to have achieved on our own? Make a list of the aspects of our lives which are directly attributable to God.
3. In Psalm 139:17-24, how does the psalmist respond to the fact that all he has is due to God's work in creating and watching over him?

Making it Personal: Do you desire to be so close to God that the world can see it in the way you speak and act? Why or why not?

Wednesday – Praising Thankfully

"Is any pleasure on earth as great as a circle of Christian friends by a fire?" C.S. Lewis

1. Please read Psalm 100:4. How does your attitude about coming to church match up with this verse? What things can interfere with adopting a thankful and praise-filled approach to church on Sunday morning?
2. How easy or difficult is it for you to identify with the sentiments expressed in Psalm 122:1-9? Why?

Prayer Focus: Spend some time in prayer for our church to be known as a place where people are glad to come together with others to worship God, being thankful for all he has done.

Thursday – Forever Good

"He loved us not because we were loveable, but because he is Love." C.S. Lewis

1. Please read Psalm 100:5. How does this conclusion lead you to follow through on the instructions in the first four verses?
2. Read Psalm 136:1-26 out loud. What does the repeated refrain "His love endures forever" do?

Text Insight: Psalm 136 might have been written as a call and response song, so that the leader would sing a line about God and the people would respond with "His love endures forever."

Making it Personal: Write down a list of things God has done in your life. Underneath each item write the words "His love endures forever," closing your list with "Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever." (Psalm 136:26).

Friday – Foreign Praise

"Don't we in praise somehow enjoy what we praise?" C.S. Lewis

1. Please read Luke 17:11-19. What did the Samaritan do? What do you think happened to the other nine?

Text Insight: Jews considered contact with Samaritans to be spiritually forbidden. This Samaritan may not have been able to approach the priests in the temple but he knew that he could return to Jesus.

2. Now read Matthew 8:5-13. How did the Roman officer's words and actions give praise and glory to God?

Making it Personal: Pray that your life will display your thankfulness for what God has done.

For the Weekend: In Matthew 8:14-15, how did Peter's mother in law respond to God's work in her life? Ask God to show you how to praise and serve him as an expression of your thanks.