

PARENT CORNER

weekly

TODAY: JANUARY 3

Bible Story: Paul & Silas in Jail *Act 16:16-34*

Big Idea: Be thankful, even when things don't go your way.

Memory Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord because He is good. His faithful love continues forever." *Psalms 136:1, NIV*

Life App: Gratitude—being thankful.

Bible Story Summary: "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33b. The first part of that verse is one we'd like to skip over in the Bible, but if you've lived very long you know it's true. Life can be really hard at times. But **even when things don't go our way, we can be thankful.**

Paul & Silas were amazing examples of this. They had been stripped, beaten, and thrown in jail for healing someone. In their circumstances we could all understand them being frustrated and even bitter. But Paul & Silas were praying and singing hymns to God while in jail. They were filled with joy and gratitude to God, even when things didn't go their way. When we focus on the goodness of God, we always have things to be thankful for. We want the kids to see that God is good, and we have so much to be thankful for, even when we are going through hard times in life.

Meal Time



Ask your kid: Name one thing you are thankful for.

Ask a parent: Name one thing about God that you are thankful for.

January 3 | K1

WEEK 1



DAY 1

Read Acts 16:25

In our story this week, Paul and Silas were in prison for doing something good...healing a girl! They could have been very angry and bitter for being put in jail for doing good. Read Acts 16:25 to see their reaction for being put in jail.

Fill in the verse:

"About midnight Paul and Silas were _____ and _____ hymns to God."

Paul and Silas focused on God instead. When we put our eyes on God instead of the hard things we are going through, we can always find so much to be thankful for.

When is it hardest for you to be thankful?

Next time you aren't feeling thankful, what can you do?

THANK God for who He is!

DAY 2

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Give thanks in all circumstances" is a command in the Bible. You can't tell someone how to feel, so being thankful does not start with how you feel, it's **WHAT YOU DO!**

What actions did Paul & Silas take to have a thankful heart? (Clue: look at yesterday's God-Time)

You can take the same action to have a thankful heart!

In the box, write things you can praise God for.

Write small so you can fit them all in!

TALK to God in prayer, telling Him how great He is!

DAY 3

Read Psalm 105:1-2

We have learned there are 2 things we can do to give us a heart of thanks...**PRAISE** and **PRAY**!

Paul and Silas sang hymns to God when they were in jail. That's how they **PRAISED**!

When you sing songs about how great God is, it changes our focus from our troubles and problems, to how great God is and how much we have to be thankful for! David was full of gratitude for God's awesome blessings. We can be, too.

JUST DO IT! Play a song of worship to God. Sing to Him with all your heart.

LOOK for ways to worship God today. Sing in the car, in your room, anytime you can.

HEY PARENTS SIGN HERE!

Have a parent sign your completed GodTime.

Parent signature

Date

Return for 5 Bible Bucks!

parent CUE:

By Carey Nieuwhof

Child-centered parenting maybe isn't the best approach to parenting. Primarily because it produces self-centered adults as he or she matures. A child who grows up to believe she is the center of the universe will have a far more difficult life than one who grows up to understand she has a place among many in the universe.

My wife and I saw the pitfalls of child-centered parenting early on. When our first son was born, we had to make decisions about how to child-proof our home. Beyond health and safety child proofing, we decided to simply set boundaries by telling him what he could play with (toys) and what he couldn't touch (our stuff). To our surprise, it worked. One of the very first words he learned was "no."

That's actually an important key to breaking the child-centered mindset. Kids need to learn to live in this world with respect for their boundaries and respect for others.

Here are five strategies that can help resist the pull toward self-centered parenting:

Make God the center. You and your children were created to worship something bigger than yourself or each other. When there is a natural refocusing of our wants and needs within the framework of a loving Heavenly Father, our lives realize function so much better.

Stop rescuing. Your child needs to feel the consequences of his actions. When you step in to solve every conflict (with siblings, friends, or school), you rob him of the learning that comes from dealing with his own shortcomings and mistakes. You don't want to let him get harmed, but you should be willing to let him get hurt.

Say no. Our kids are adults now, and I don't think they've ever broken a picture frame or piece of furniture in the house. A few bones . . . sure, but that was playing sports . . .

Set and enforce limits. Your children need to know there are limits to what they can and should do. Ironically, it's within limits that we find the ultimate freedom.

Help them serve others. When your child serves others, she realizes that there are greater needs than hers in the world. Serving changes the heart to be less self-centered and more others-centered.

DAY 4

Read Psalm 107:21

There are so many reasons to give thanks to the Lord. We have so many blessings to be grateful for—His love, His Son, His grace, His forgiveness. And there are so many different ways to thank God. We can sing to Him, we can pray, we can think about Him during the day, and we can tell others of His love. Can you think of more? It's so important to take the time to thank God!

ACTIVITY: Play a Gratitude Game with your family. Sit in a circle. The shortest person goes first and says something they're grateful for. Then the person to their left has 3 seconds or less to say something they're thankful for, but no repeats! See how many times you can go around the circle before someone gets stuck.

KNOW that praising God for all the wonderful things He does, gives us a heart of gratitude.

at a GLANCE



Bibles N Bucks Shopping:

We will be postponing Bibles-N-Bucks Shopping until further notice! Please note that you are more than welcome turn in ALL OF YOUR GODTIMES and collect your Bible Bucks. We encourage you to save them!

FACEBOOK:

Please check out our KidCity Facebook page! There will be EXCITING activities going on there!

