**FOUR WAYS TO TEACH THANKS**

In the Old Testament, a **thank** offering represented an act of thanksgiving for answered prayer and blessings given. It expressed a voluntary desire on the part of the offeror(s) to **thank** God. Usually, **thank** offerings were given in gratitude for deliverance from sickness (Psalm 107:20-22), trouble (Psalm 50:14-15), or death (Psalm 56:12-13). God was honored by **thank** offerings (Psalm 50:23). Read Leviticus 7:11-14 for more information on **thank** offerings.

Because of Jesus, today we don't have to sacrifice **thank** offerings in the same way. When we pray, how­ever, we should always remember to give **thanks** for His many blessings, and in the midst of whatever cir­cumstance we find ourselves (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is always appropriate to honor God and **thank** Him when we are blessed!

What kinds of **thank** offerings could you make to the Lord as a family? Here are some ideas for you to try:

1. Give the Lord a **thank** offering of praise! Worship Him together with songs and read psalms that praise the Lord. Do this whenever God blesses your family in a special way—whether it's big or small. Let your kids help plan and participate in the worship time.

2. Share your gratefulness to God with others! Prepare a special meal when you have been blessed (someone is healed, a new baby arrives, a new job, and so on). Invite others to join in your feast of **thanksgiving** and focus on **thanking** God with scriptures such as: 1 Chronicles 16:8-10, Psalm 7:17, and 1 Corinthians 15:57. Have the kids make invitations and decorate your home with posters using some of the **thanks** verses.

3. When your family is sad or discouraged (especially your kids), throw a "Count Your Blessings" party. Get as creative as you want to with games and prizes. Give each family member a piece of paper and pencil and set a timer—see who can come up with the most things to be **thankful** for in a specified time.

4.Try **"thankfulness"** charades or Pictionary. Have each person think of something they are **thankful** for and try to get the rest of the family to guess what it is by acting it out or drawing it. Take turns **thanking** God using sentence prayers for all of the things listed or mentioned. Celebrate God's good­ness with cake and ice cream!

Here are some other practical ways to demonstrate your **thankfulness:**

Give Him your time as a **thank** offering. Could you sacrifice a few hours to work as a family at a food pantry or serve food at a local rescue mission in **thanks** for God's abundance to you? Check with your church and community to find other ways you could serve as a family.

Donate food and clothing to the needy as a **thank** offering. As a family, you could clean out closets and make a special trip to a church or community agency to donate the items.

David & Kim Butts, direct Harvest Prayer Min­istries.

Check out their website at **www.harvestprayer.com.**