

Character Trait for November 13-19 is Gratefulness

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Gratefulness: Letting others know by my words and actions how they have benefited my life.

Weekly Verse: Colossians 3:16, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

Bible Story: One of the characteristics of a mature Christian life is that we will be thankful. The word "thank", or some variation of it, appears in the Bible hundreds of times. The simple command to be thankful gives us a glimpse of what God wants our hearts to look like.

Also, read through these verses daily to help focus on gratefulness: I Thes 5:18, Hebrews 12:28, Psalm 100:3-4, 2 Cor 4:15, Eph 1:16, Daniel 2:23, Col 2:6-7, Eph 5:19-20, James 1:17, 2 Cor 9:15.

Quote: "Gratefulness is being grateful for the giver, and not just the gift."

Leadership: As we read the news on a daily basis, it becomes obvious that one true test of leadership is how leaders treat those who hold less power than them. God himself tells us that He will judge us based on how we treat "the least of these". True leaders do not use their positions of power to get what they want from those who have less power than they do.

Application:

Take some time this week to come up with a list of people for whom you are grateful in your life. They can live near you, or far away. Then, during Thanksgiving week reach out to them and tell them why you are grateful for them and how they have impacted you. This can be in person or through social media of some sort. This should result in a great Thanksgiving Day for everyone.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you set a goal of thanking one person every day for what they have done for you between now and the end of November? How would this impact your life?
2. Name three benefits you receive from each member of your family. How can you show your gratefulness to them?
3. How does showing gratefulness demonstrate God at work in our lives?