

November 2022

The members and friends in congregations I have served in the past twenty years know that I would *like* to declare the month of November “The Season for Thanks Giving” in the Church. I mean for the *whole* Church... worldwide.

I don’t have that kind of influence, but I did convince a few churches along the way to give this theme special emphasis while I was with them. And now, in this episode of the Prayer Link, I declare November “The Season for Thanks Giving.”

Bruce Stumbo, Ministry Lead
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The First 5 Days: 5 Mission Practices

North American Mission is encouraging everyone in our sphere of influence to read *Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to be an Everyday Missionary* by Greg Finke. In the book (p. 98), you will discover an encouraging *set of five practices*, to assist in our desire to be a disciple-making church. Let’s take them on, one day at a time.

1 #1 Seek the Kingdom: How do you see God where you are—home, work, community, church? Pray for sight (“Open our eyes, Lord”) to see Christ at work in your world. Take notes and give thanks for his work.

2 #2 Hearing from Jesus: What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word through your reading, sermons, Bible study, Sunday school? Give thanks for the teaching and the ways you are able and free to hear it.

3 #3 Talking with people: Pray today for opportunities to simply speak to others about God’s work in this world, even in your own life.

4 #4 Do good: Pray for open eyes and a heart to see opportunities to do good for others. Send me some examples of how that works out!

5 #5 Minister through prayer: After taking part in the first-four practices, I’m guessing you have lots to give thanks for, and many more people to pray for. Do that today.

In this week ahead, let’s give thanks for the many relationships our Lord leads us into.

6 Give thanks for our freedom to worship God. Pray for your pastor(s) and other worship leaders... name them, one by one.

7 People at work: Are you at work today? Whether at home or in an office, who can you bring before the Lord in prayer?

8 The unmet: Ever had a relationship with someone you’ve never met... *yet*? Pray for opportunities to befriend someone.

9 Family: Pray for each member of *your* family today... all day! If you have a really large family, better get to it!

10 Friends: They may live close by or far away; pray for your friends. If you need to catch up, give them a call and ask how to pray for them, Just do it... you never know.

11 Servants: As you are out and about today, pray for those who assist you—clerks, tellers, servers, attendants, cashiers...keep your eyes and heart open.

12 The Church: We are part of a huge family called God’s Church. Pray for *all* those who are committed to sharing the gospel in your area. Perhaps you could look in the newspaper for a list of congregations other than your own to pray for.

I’ll give you some brief prayer suggestions and will ask you to fill in some blanks.

13 “Count your blessings, name them one by one.” What a great idea! Make a list and don’t stop until you’ve run out of ideas. Well, take a break for supper.

14 Lord, today I give you thanks for the following people in my life_____

15 Father, I know these people have needs only you can meet_____

16 Jesus, I just want to thank you, thank you for being_____

17 Many of our congregations gather for activities tonight. Lord, please work through_____

18 Another work week coming to a close? Give thanks for jobs and co-workers, even bosses! These are hard days. Pray.

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19 Out shopping today? Give thanks and pray for those who work hard to provide goods and services for the rest of us.

20 The old song goes, “Give thanks, with a grateful heart.” It’s the 3rd Sunday in “The Season for Thanks Giving.” Focus, prayerfully, on our source for everything.

21 I’m looking back at last month’s hurricane. Do you have friends who faced this storm? Were you in it? I’m praying for all. Please join me.

22 Holidays can be tough if you’re hurting. Cast all your cares upon Jesus. One at a time, or all at once.

23 Traveling? Pray for safety for everyone, even (especially?) for those drivers who take the joy out of a pleasant trip.

24 THANKSGIVING! A unique day in the U.S. We are so gifted, so blessed. Once we start giving thanks, we might not be able to stop. Let’s give it a go.

25 Leftovers? Maybe you have some left over items on your *thanks giving* list. Take your time; it’s a good day to relax in prayer.

26 Your pastor(s) and church staff have had some busy days. As they prepare for tomorrow, remember them in prayer. Prepare your own heart, too. “We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing.” Let’s pass that blessing on.

27 “The Season for Thanks Giving” will soon be over for this year. I have a wall plaque a friend gave me several years ago, which says, “What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?” Need I say more?

28 I know, I know, yesterday was the First Sunday in Advent. We begin this wonderful time of the year giving thanks for the promise of a coming Savior—let us pray for the return of our Redeemer King.

29 “Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; Thank you, Lord, for making me whole; Thank you, Lord, for giving to me Thy great salvation, so rich, and free.” Pray *that* today.

30 “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” 1 Chronicles 16:34 Finish this month’s prayer time thinking on the enduring love of our Lord.

Thank you for joining me on this journey through “The Season for Thanks Giving.”

It is with a full heart I thank God for each of you who are willing to prayerfully support and “join the mission of Jesus by becoming everyday missionaries.” —**Bruce**



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