

PECULIAR TREASURES LESSON – 23rd AUGUST 2020

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE IV

TEXT 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 22

MEMORY VERSE 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Or 1 Thessalonians 5:18a "give thanks in all circumstances;"

STORY – PRAISE GOD

When the Chukwumas returned home from church, they sat in the sitting room to relax. Mrs Chukwuma noticed that her last born was not looking happy. This was unlike him. He usually enjoyed his class in church.

"Chibuike, what happened in church today? You've not told us anything." Mrs Chuwuma asked.

"I don't like what my teacher said. It doesn't make sense." Chibuike replied slowly.

"What did she say?"

"She said that we should give thanks for all things. How can I give thanks for sickness, poverty, accidents? This is not what God wants for me."

"Are you sure, that's what Mrs Olayinka said?"

"Yes. She also said that we can learn things through those situations."

"Hmm." Mrs Chukwuma looked thoughtful. She decided to call Mrs Olayinka. She needed to correct this wrong notion before it caused more havoc. She quickly and calmly made the call. Five minutes later, she concluded the call with a smile on her face.

"Now listen, Chibuike. Adaeze and Akuchi, take note as well. Mrs Olayinka did not say that you should give thanks **for** all things but **in** all things." Mrs Chukwuma said. "In the book of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 we are told to give thanks in all things for this is the will of God for us."

"Hmm." Chibuike felt better, but he still had questions. "Will you please give me an example?"

"Sure," Mrs Chibuike replied. "For example during the COVID 19 lock down, it's good to thank God in the situation. We are not thanking God for the situation because although your teachers were sending work home through WhatsApp once a week, it was not the same as going to school. You know that your father was out of work for a while and it affected the money he could make. However, one good thing that came out was that I finally did that online course I had been postponing for five years. As I thanked God regularly for keeping me and using me to provide for the family, he opened my eyes to that course and a few other things."

"That's true. Remember, the first day that we as a family had our praise night?" Engr. Chukwuma asked. Every one nodded. "Well, it was that night that I was also reminded of a dream I had when I was much younger. I had wanted to be a blogger. Well, since I was at home, I developed myself and I started blogging. The feedback was slow at first, but a lot of people are now reading my blogs and are eager for more."

"I remember the second praise night, we had," Adaeze said. "I didn't feel like praising God that night. I had a serious tummy ache. I was not happy that we were not going to school and that I could not be with my friends. However, as I began to thank God for the wonderful family I have, remembering that some people were shut down with people who abused them verbally or physically, I could not but thank God. As I praised God and handed over everything to him, I received my complete healing."

"I remember that night as well," Mrs Chukwuma said with a smile. You didn't want to use any drug even though the pain was affecting you at first. God healed you."

"I remember that second praise night as well," Akuchi said. It was the time God delivered me from the girl I had a crush on. I was feeling a little bitter, but as I thanked God that night for his mercies and his love, God gave me peace. I know I was told to be careful of her, but I didn't listen. Because of the lockdown, I couldn't go with two other friends to her place. I later learnt that a few other people that were supposed to meet us there still went. Her mother stayed in her room throughout. The girl brought out two types of beer and said that everyone should try it. One of the boys that was there was almost involved in an accident as he walked back home."

"God has been faithful to this family." Mrs Chukwuma concluded.

"Thanks, everybody. I understand now." Chibuike said.

"We need to rejoice always. We need to pray without ceasing. We need to thank God. I believe this is another good time to use words and songs to say thank you to The Almighty." Engr Chukwuma said as he stood up. "Or what do you think?"

QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Chibuike family come from at the beginning of the story?
2. Why was Chibuike not happy after church?
3. Who is Mrs Olayinka?
4. What happened when the following people thanked God **in** the circumstances:
 - a) Engr. Chukwuma?
 - b) Mrs Chukwuma?
 - c) Akuchi?
 - d) Adaeze?
5. At the end of the story, what did Engr. Chukwuma want all of them to do?

CONFESSION

I am a child of God. I rejoice always. I pray without ceasing. I give thanks in all things knowing that this is what God wants from me. I reap a good harvest from what I speak. I speak the word of God. Negative circumstances don't stop me. I use them as stepping stones to get to better places. I am a victor. I have an attitude of gratitude.

ACTIVITIES

1. **With younger children** Life is not a straight line. Walk around the house with your child / children following you. Sometimes walk normally and sometimes squat. Do it for as long as you want.
2. **With older children** They should share times in which they gave or should have given thanks to God despite the circumstances. Remember, give thanks in, not for.

WORKSHEETS (OPTIONAL)

Younger children

Colour the lips.

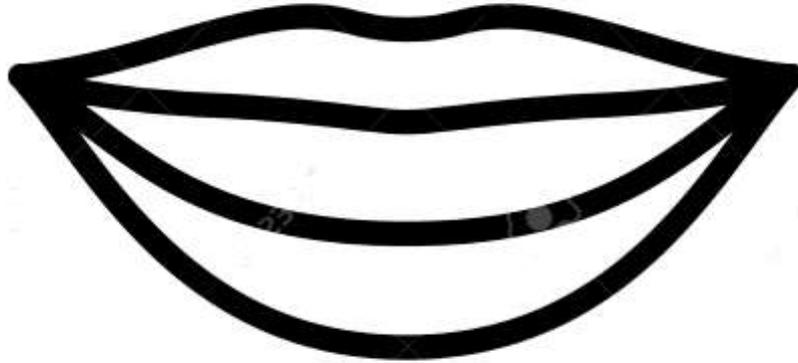
Older children

Colour the lips and write.

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE IV - JUNIOR

Name _____ Date _____

Colour the lips. We use them to say thank you to God.



ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE IV - SENIOR

Name _____ Date _____

Colour the lips and write four things you can say to God to thank him.