

THANKSGIVING DAY

Psalm 136:26



Contents

Message	We express special gratitude to God for His love and faithfulness.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ We participate in a special divine service that honours God with our thankfulness.■ We bring a special offering of thanks.
Bible Text	Psalm 136:26

Thanksgiving Day



Thanksgiving Day is celebrated as a special day in the New Apostolic Church. Thanksgiving Day is a celebration when we give thanks to God as the Creator.

Each year a divine service is dedicated to expressing gratitude to God for all the good gifts He grants to us. Out of thankfulness to Him, believers bring a special offering to Him.

On Thanksgiving Day we express special thankfulness to our heavenly Father, but we should give thanks always for all things. Being grateful for all things includes thanks for the natural creation as well as the spiritual creation.

For example when we give thanks for the natural creation, we are thankful for our physical life, for food and what we receive, for our abilities (our talents and gifts) and for what we can do (see, hear, move).

We are also thankful for the people in our lives such as our family and friends.

Likewise, in our spiritual lives, we give thanks for our ability to believe and pray. We are thankful for the love of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We should be thankful for the spiritual food we receive through God's word in the divine services.

If we are not thankful for that which we see and receive in our natural lives, we cannot be thankful for what we have in our spiritual lives; for example Jesus' sacrifice, the forgiveness of sins and His promise to return. We should also be thankful when we are in need or experience something difficult in our lives.

The Lord Jesus can be our example. When there were five thousand people to feed, Jesus did not dwell on the small amount of bread and fish but gave thanks and trusted that there would be enough.

We should be thankful for what we have and see this as gifts from God rather than focusing on what we do not have.

Because if we are thankful for all these gifts we are prompted from our hearts to share them with God.

We do this by giving some portion of our time and offerings to Him. That is why it is called Thanksgiving.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see.
Let the children decorate the altar at Thanksgiving Day.

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children.

- How do you thank someone for something they have given you? (Say thank you, write a note, ...)
- What is special about Thanksgiving in the New Apostolic Church?
(It is a divine service in which we give special thanks to God for all that we have received from him.)
- Have you ever thanked God for something?
- What are spiritual gifts we are thankful for?
(Being a child of God, the opportunity to hear God's word, for our congregation ...)

Have the children repeat...

- At Thanksgiving Day we honour God in a special divine service.
- We bring a special offering of thanks.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- The day before the Thanksgiving Divine service, take the children to the market.
- Let them pick out a fruit or vegetable.
- Then have them arrange what they have selected in a special place in the church.
- Why do we do this? (We are thankful to our God who made everything.)

Repeat the Message

We express special gratitude to God for His love and
faithfulness.