

# NOVEMBER READING PLAN

## Gratitude & Thanksgiving

### Introduction: A Life Shaped by Thanksgiving

Throughout Scripture, thanksgiving is the language of faith. The Psalms are full of it: “*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.*” The Israelites sang those words when God delivered them from Egypt, when they entered the Promised Land, and when they rebuilt the temple after exile. Gratitude was the thread that tied their story together. In the New Testament, Jesus Himself embodies perfect thanksgiving—lifting His eyes before meals, before miracles, and even before the cross to thank His Father. The early church followed His lead, learning that thanksgiving flows from the grace they had received.

To “give thanks” means to recognize that everything—life, breath, salvation, and daily bread—is gift. Gratitude turns our eyes from what we lack to what we have received. It reminds us that God’s generosity precedes our striving. Where complaint shrinks our vision, gratitude expands it. Where worry fixates on what might go wrong, thanksgiving roots us in what is already true: God is faithful, present, and good.

Gratitude is a way of seeing the world that changes how we live in it. From beginning to end, the Bible calls God’s people to give thanks. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he urged them, “*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus*” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). In other words, thanksgiving is not merely good advice—it is God’s design for our flourishing.

Our natural bent is not toward gratitude. It is toward discontentment, entitlement, jealousy, forgetfulness, and complaint. None of us really want to live that way. So, this month is focused on cultivating a heart of gratitude through the practice of thanksgiving. It requires us to pay attention to things we normally take for granted. We have to slow down to count our blessings.

A heart of gratitude is ultimately a heart centered on Christ. The word the early church used for “thanksgiving” is *eucharistia*—from which we get *Eucharist*, the Lord’s Table. Every time we remember the cross, we remember the greatest gift ever given. Gratitude draws us back to that table, again and again, until our entire life becomes an act of thanksgiving.

This 30-day journey is an invitation to practice that way of seeing. Each day offers Scripture and space to reflect—to name the gifts of God, large and small, and to let your heart respond with thanksgiving.

“When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.” — **G. K. Chesterton**

“Gratitude is the pulse of a healthy soul.” — **John Stott**

“Thanksgiving is not the result of good circumstances—it is the recognition of a good God.”  
— **Corrie ten Boom**

“It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.” — **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

## Overview

Each day this month we will do three things: **Read** selected verses; **Reflect** on the verses (questions below); **Respond** with thanksgiving (see prompts below).

## WEEK 1 (Nov 1-7)

| DATE  | READ                            | REFLECT                                                                                                                                                             | RESPOND                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       | Selected Verses                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Observations</li><li>- How is God speaking to you?</li><li>- What can you glean about gratitude and thanksgiving?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Make a list, giving thanks for whatever comes to mind today.</li><li>- Use these prompts to add to your list.</li></ul> |
| NOV 1 | Psalms 100                      |                                                                                                                                                                     | List 5 things about God you are thankful for.                                                                                                                   |
| NOV 2 | 1 Thes. 5:16-18                 |                                                                                                                                                                     | Give thanks throughout the day today. (e.g., at each meal, write down something you are thankful for in the past few hours)                                     |
| NOV 3 | Phil. 4:4-7                     |                                                                                                                                                                     | What is an area of anxiety for you ... give thanks for something related to that.                                                                               |
| NOV 4 | Psalms 103:1-19                 | Make a list of what God has done.                                                                                                                                   | Choose 3 of the things from your list to give thanks for, personally. Be specific about how you have experienced these things in your life.                     |
| NOV 5 | Eph. 5:18-20                    |                                                                                                                                                                     | What is something or someone you have been complaining about lately? List ways that you can give thanks for that person or situation.                           |
| NOV 6 | Phil. 1:3-11                    |                                                                                                                                                                     | Thank God for 3 people in your life (list specific things about them). Pray this prayer for them.                                                               |
| NOV 7 | 1 Cor. 15:50-58;<br>Rev. 7:9-12 |                                                                                                                                                                     | Give thanks for the victory God has won and the hope we have for our future.                                                                                    |

## WEEK 2 (Nov 8-14)

| DATE          | READ             | REFLECT                                                                                                                                                                 | RESPOND                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | Selected Verses  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observations</li> <li>- How is God speaking to you?</li> <li>- What can you glean about gratitude and thanksgiving?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make a list, giving thanks for whatever comes to mind today.</li> <li>- Use these prompts to add to your list.</li> </ul> |
| <b>NOV 8</b>  | Luke 17:11-19    |                                                                                                                                                                         | Confess a lack of gratitude and give thanks for the salvation you have in Christ.                                                                                  |
| <b>NOV 9</b>  | Col. 3:15-16     |                                                                                                                                                                         | Give thanks for our church (community, leaders, worship, witness, etc.)                                                                                            |
| <b>NOV 10</b> | Col. 3:17, 23-24 |                                                                                                                                                                         | Give thanks for your work: God's provision, skills he has given you, the people you work with, etc.                                                                |
| <b>NOV 11</b> | Col. 4:2-6       |                                                                                                                                                                         | Give thanks for the opportunities you have to talk with others about spiritual things.                                                                             |
| <b>NOV 12</b> | 2 Cor. 9:6-15    | How is generosity connected to thanksgiving?                                                                                                                            | Give thanks for God's "inexpressible gift" – grace, forgiveness, eternal life.                                                                                     |
| <b>NOV 13</b> | James 1:12-18    | How does giving thanks help us endure trials?                                                                                                                           | Make a list of good gifts you have. Include things you might normally take for granted.                                                                            |
| <b>NOV 14</b> | Psalms 25        | Make a list of what God does for us?                                                                                                                                    | Give thanks for the ways that God has led and guided you. Think about specific people, situations, and decisions.                                                  |

## Week 3 (Nov 15-21)

| DATE   | READ                            | REFLECT                                                                                                                                                                 | RESPOND                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | Selected Verses                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observations</li> <li>- How is God speaking to you?</li> <li>- What can you glean about gratitude and thanksgiving?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make a list, giving thanks for whatever comes to mind today.</li> <li>- Use these prompts to add to your list.</li> </ul>   |
| NOV 15 | 1 Chron. 16:7-12                | What are all the expressions of thanksgiving?                                                                                                                           | Write a prayer of thanksgiving that incorporates the various expressions of thanksgiving that you see in this passage.                                               |
| NOV 16 | 2 Cor. 4:7-15                   |                                                                                                                                                                         | Give thanks for the people that have shaped you, and the sacrifices others have made for your good.                                                                  |
| NOV 17 | Psalms 75                       |                                                                                                                                                                         | What feels out of control in your life and in the world? Write a short prayer of thanksgiving that the God who rules the nations is sovereign over all these things. |
| NOV 18 | 1 Cor. 12:12-27                 | What keeps you from being thankful for the gifts that others have?                                                                                                      | Give thanks for people in your community, specifically for their gifts and the ways you have seen God use them.                                                      |
| NOV 19 | Psalms 19:7-11; 2 Tim. 3:14-17  | Make a list of what is said about God's word.                                                                                                                           | Give thanks for the goodness of God's word, and for the specific ways it has shaped you.                                                                             |
| NOV 20 | Isaiah 40:28-31; Matt. 11:28-30 | How do you feel weary right now?                                                                                                                                        | Give thanks for the ways God provides rest and renewal for you.                                                                                                      |
| NOV 21 | Psalms 92:1-5; 95:1-7           |                                                                                                                                                                         | Give thanks for God's great works and his faithful love.                                                                                                             |

## Week 4 (Nov 22-30)

| DATE   | READ                       | REFLECT                                                                                                                                                                  | RESPOND                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        | Selected Verses            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observations.</li> <li>- How is God speaking to you?</li> <li>- What can you glean about gratitude and thanksgiving?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make a list, giving thanks for whatever comes to mind today.</li> <li>- Use these prompts to add to your list.</li> </ul> |
| NOV 23 | Jonah 2:1-9                |                                                                                                                                                                          | Give thanks for God's mercy and deliverance.                                                                                                                       |
| NOV 22 | Eph. 4:4                   |                                                                                                                                                                          | See if you can work in ways to give thanks during your conversations today.                                                                                        |
| NOV 24 | Psalms 28:6-7;<br>66:16-20 |                                                                                                                                                                          | Thank God for answered prayers.                                                                                                                                    |
| NOV 25 | 2 Cor. 2:12-17             |                                                                                                                                                                          | Give thanks for opportunities God has given you to share the gospel and minister to others.                                                                        |
| NOV 26 | Psalms 34:10               | List what God does in this passage.                                                                                                                                      | Give thanks for the ways you have recently tasted the Lord's goodness.                                                                                             |
| NOV 27 | Rom. 6:15-18;<br>7:22-25   |                                                                                                                                                                          | Give thanks for the ways God has changed your life by his grace and his power.                                                                                     |
| NOV 28 | Psalms 8                   |                                                                                                                                                                          | Give thanks for creation. Think about specific things you enjoy and ways that creation points you to God's wisdom and beauty.                                      |
| NOV 29 | 1 Tim. 4:4-5               |                                                                                                                                                                          | Give thanks for everyday things that you enjoy.                                                                                                                    |
| NOV 30 | Mark 8:1-8                 |                                                                                                                                                                          | Give thanks for God's abundant provision. List specific ways he has provided for you.                                                                              |