

## Developing an Attitude of Gratitude Week 16: Teaching Kids Gratitude

*“God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say thank you?” —William A. Ward*

*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” —Proverbs 22:6*

Kids aren't born with a natural inclination to be thankful for what they have in life. Children are born with a focus on fulfilling their own immediate needs and getting what they want. Gratitude is learned as it is modeled by parents, teachers, and other positive influencers in their lives.

Kids who are not taught to be thankful for what they have often struggle with a sense of entitlement. They are often disappointed in what they do have and frequently struggle with being satisfied in life.

Practice saying “please” and “thank you” with your children. Point out those things in life for which you are thankful—changes in the seasons, upcoming holidays, family members, etc. Children will notice the beauty in life as you point it out to them.

Serving others is a wonderful way for your kids to learn gratitude. Serving family members is a great place to start. As your children grow older, look for ways to serve in the community. Serve together in the local homeless shelter or soup kitchen. Let them help as you serve others. They will learn by example.

### Consider This:

- Do you think that the behaviors you model at home are ones of gratitude or entitlement?
- What are some new ways that you can teach your children to be more thankful for the things they have in life?

### Take Action:

Plan an activity that allows your family to bless others. It could be as simple as raking the leaves in a neighbor's yard or creating some handmade cards for the elderly. Process with your children how blessing others will help make them feel happier and more thankful for all they have in life.

## *News and Notes*

**Christmas Party**—Next Saturday will be our annual Christmas party at 6pm. Please bring a finger food to share. We will be doing a new gift exchange game so bring a \$5 gift if you would like to participate.

### *Birthdays*

Shayla Groacke	12/15	Sharon Griffiths	12/17
Amy Reinbold	12/21	Ruger Sanderson	12/21

If you birthday has been inadvertently left off this list please let Shannon know.

### *Those Serving*

#### 12/6/2015

Opening Prayer	Jeremy	Table: West Colby
Song Leader	Shane	Center Gary
Scripture Reader	Ethan	East Jay
Closing Prayer	Wiley	Preacher: Tom
Devotion:	Chris	Song Leader: Shane

#### Announcements: Shane

#### 12/13/2015

Opening Prayer	Colby	Table: West Jeremy
Song Leader	Tom	Center Shane
Scripture Reader	Pablo III	East Gary
Closing Prayer	Jay	Preacher: Chris
Devotion:	Prayer	Song Leader: Jay

#### Announcements: Tom

**December:** Lord's Supper Sharon Sidewalks Jay