



ACTIVITY: THANKFUL CHAINS

Cut strips of construction paper in a variety of autumn colors. You will need tape and pens or markers for the group to use for this activity.

SAY:

We're going to create a Thankful Chain. After we start them, you can take your chain home and add to it each time you think of something you are thankful for.

THANKFUL CHAIN INSTRUCTIONS:

- Choose a strip of paper to be the first color for your chain. Think about one thing that you are thankful for, or something that makes you smile. Write it on the paper strip you chose.
- Tape the strip ends together, so that the writing is on the outside, creating a loop.
- Choose another paper and write one more thing you are thankful for.
- Tape these strip ends together around the first loop.
- Continue for as many things you can think of to give thanks for.

BIBLICAL APPLICATION

10 minutes

Open a Bible to the verse, so the group sees that you are reading from God's Word. Hand out the Light for the Night cards.

SAY:

Our Light for the Night comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

More often than not, we tend to "save-up" our list of things-to-be-thankful-for and open it on one day each year. Scripture told us long before the holiday of Thanksgiving was established that giving thanks was for *every* day, in *every* circumstance.

To give thanks in everything goes against the norm. Our emotions don't always match the actions of rejoicing and Thanksgiving.

Paul writes this verse, convinced that in everything, God is working on behalf of his people. He is not instructing us to thank God **FOR** everything that happens but **IN** everything. Even in grief, sorrow, worry, or fear, we can be thankful for the good that God will accomplish through difficulties. We can be thankful for God's presence and our salvation through His Son, Christ Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, seeing thankfulness right now is so hard. Open our eyes to what we can rejoice in. Help us to trust Your will in our grief. Amen.