

Jesus in the Home—Fall Adventures—November

Ephesians 1:16 --“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”

As November comes, we all prepare for the family events ahead! Because of the holidays during the next two months, we often take a little more time with family. We also tend to find ourselves taking a little more time to focus on what we should be grateful for. As we do that, it can be easy to see the many “things” we have been given and even the family members in our lives.

For example, while, my Grandma passed many years ago, I still find myself counting the blessings she brought to my life. And while simple, one of my favorites is a holiday memory. As we have family events around meals, there is often discussions of who will bring what. With Grandma, it was never a question, from family events she hosted when I was little to family events right before she passed where she came to us, one thing was always the same, Grandma was there and she brought her baked corn. I am not sure if it is simply the best baked corn in the world, or maybe just a combination of the corn with the fact it was Grandma’s, but it was always amazing and consistent. I worked very hard to learn how to make it from Grandma, and she would stand with me and watch me as we made it together. It took me a long time to figure out why, once I started making it on my own I never could quite make it the same. But as I look back at the process, it was little things like, “pour the milk up to this point in the pan” and “put slabs of butter in till it covers this part of this dish”. The truth is Grandma just knew, and I never got measurements, I got an experience, love, and amazing baked corn.

This year, I continue to be grateful for those experiences, time, and the 41 years I got to have with my Grandma.

This year, as fall comes, I encourage you to not wait until thanksgiving, but to have a daily time of gratitude. But, this year, let’s focus on people. It is easy to find the things we are grateful for, we have so many. We also have the blessings of health and happiness. But this year, let us follow the scriptures and “have not stopped giving thanks for you...” Each day at dinner or breakfast, whenever the family is together, have everyone share someone they are thankful for. However, work to follow two rules for this challenge! First, don’t repeat someone all month. And second, tell the story with each. Share not just that you are grateful for that person but why. Whether it is something from a long time ago, an interaction this week, or something you saw them do. Let’s share our thanks this month, but let’s also share the stories which fill our lives with blessings.