

The image features a central text overlay on a white background. The text is framed by a border of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. At the bottom of the frame, there are several pumpkins of various sizes and colors, including orange and green. The overall composition is festive and seasonal.

Happy  
Thanksgiving

# How did Thanksgiving start?

Thanksgiving has a complex history that started in the 1621 harvest feast between Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag people, but it evolved over centuries. Abraham Lincoln established a national Thanksgiving in 1863, and Franklin D. Roosevelt later made it an official holiday in 1941, though the date was debated and settled on the fourth Thursday of November.



As Christians, how should we show thankfulness?

# Thanksgiving is an act of worship

Psalm 50:23 - The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me

Showing thanksgiving as worship means expressing gratitude to God for who He is and what He has done, acknowledging Him as the creator and source of all blessings. It involves a mindset of gratitude not dependent on circumstances but is a response to God's nature

In what ways do you worship God?

# Be thankful in all circumstances

## **1 Thessalonians 5:18:**

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".

- This verse encourages thankfulness not necessarily for every bad event, but for the overarching goodness and faithfulness of God despite difficult circumstances

# Gratitude for salvation

## **Ephesians 2: 8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

What does this mean?

# Jesus' examples



# Luke 17: 11-19

## Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers,<sup>[a]</sup> who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." <sup>14</sup> When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."<sup>[b]</sup>

# Wrapping up

Have you noticed that many stories of thanksgiving have to do with food? Why do you think that is?

How can we, as Christians, be a good example of thankfulness to those around us?

Have a positive attitude

Set a good example

Explain why your thankful even when times are rough