



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

March 22, 2015

Narrative Lectionary

Matthew 25:31-46



Thanks Living. *Object:* A thank you card.

When someone does something nice for you, what do you do? You say, "Thank you," don't you? Sometimes that just doesn't seem to be enough. Has someone ever done something for you that was so nice that you wanted to do more than just say, "Thank You." I have. When that happens, I sometimes send them a "Thank You" card. Everyone enjoys receiving a "Thank You" card.

Another way you can show your thanks when someone does something really nice for you is by doing something nice for them in return. For example, if someone invites you to spend the night and you have a really good time, you should return their kindness by inviting them to come and spend the night with you.

It is always important to show our appreciation when someone does something for us, isn't it?

Well, I don't know anyone who has done more for us than God has. God provides food when we are hungry and water when we are thirsty. He heals us when we are sick and he comforts us when we are sad. The Bible tells us that he is an ever-present helper in times of trouble.

Because of all God has done for us, we say, "Thank you." But somehow that doesn't seem to be enough. We could write him a "Thank You" card, but I don't think the Post Office could deliver it, do you? I have a good idea, why don't we do something nice for him in return? But how?

Jesus told us how to do it. Jesus, said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do it for me." That means when we feed someone who is hungry, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we visit someone who is sick, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we give clothes to those who are in need, it is the same as doing it for Jesus.

There is a very special name for this way of saying, "Thank you." I call it "thanks living." "Thanks living" is when we show our thanks by the way we live. "Thanks living" is when we look at the many ways God has blessed us, and we thank him by being a blessing to others.

Let's pray and ask God to help us to offer our thanksgiving by "thanks living."

Our Father, we come into your presence with thanksgiving. Help us to turn our thanksgiving into "thanks living." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Alleluia (John 12:24)

Word Search Puzzle

W L J R R S I C A Y N G D H T
B D S X L E V O A K J L H M T
D R R E O A D M S O Z B I N A
E Y G I S T H E I B P Y D F I
X N J G N U X E C N F J T C E
A X E A K K W B K J S E R J K
N L U D V V S H E P H E R D I
Z C F A T H E R H U N G R Y N
T P L T T S T R A N G E R Y G
E H R O X N G T X T H R O N E
L N I I T Q X E T E R N A L W
R E F R S H A B R O T H E R S
D G A N S O E M B L E S S E D
C N P S T T N D Y C V P C D Q
N K E Q T P Y F W U G L O R Y

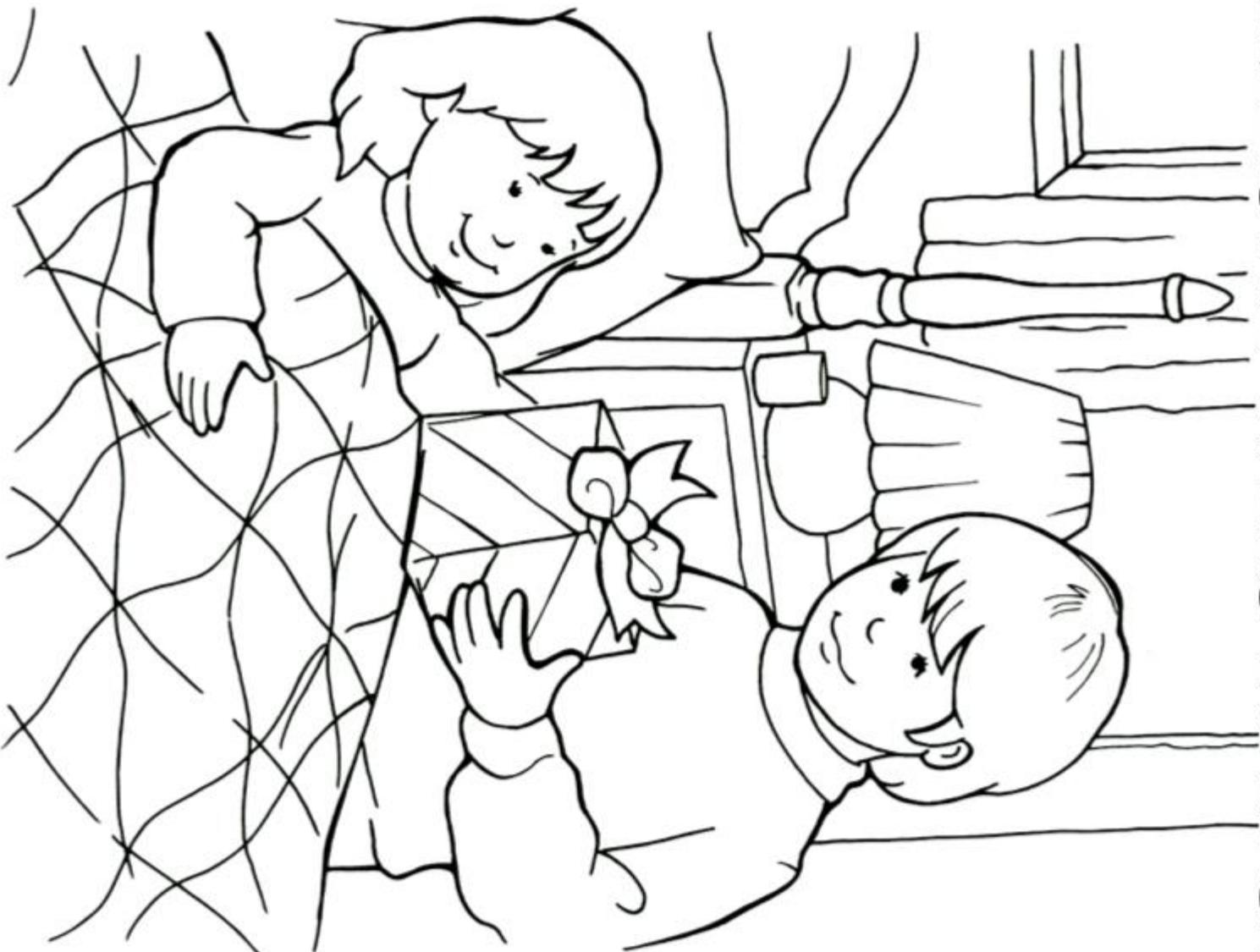
CLOTHED	SHEPHERD	HUNGRY	KING	STRANGER
LEAST	BLESSED	THRONE	SICK	EAT
GLORY	LIFE	ANGELS	DRINK	THIRSTY
BROTHERS	FATHER	ETERNAL	PRISON	COME

THANKFUL BAG: Provide the children with a brown paper lunch bag to decorate with words from today's lesson on showing our thanks to God by showing kindness to others. Provide a few small treats (mini candy bars or M&M's, etc) to put into their bag and share with someone that they would like to THANK in a special way! (of course, allow the child to eat a mini candy bar during the project). The teacher may wish to tell the children to come to him/her for THEIR special THANKS treat AFTER they have given their thankful bag to someone else!

GIVING THANKS CARDS: Children can be given a few small colored recipe cards (cut in half size). Children will write words expressing THANKS on each card. They will hole punch one corner of each card and attach the cards together with a metal ring or a piece of yarn or thin rope. Encourage children to share these cards with other family members at home throughout the month.

THANKS COLLAGE: Let the children cut out pictures from magazines of people showing kindness to others. Glue the pictures onto a piece of construction paper to create a collage. Cutting out words that show kindness to others can also be added to the collage. Cutting out a different color of construction paper for strips that can be glued around the edges to form the picture collage border will add a special touch.

I CAN BE A FRIEND TO
SOMEONE WHO IS SICK.



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