

Children's Message
11.26.06
Written & presented by : Joy McGuire

Good morning! How was everyone's Thanksgiving? Last week, each of us had the opportunity to pick up five kernels of corn. The kernels were meant to remind us to thank God for all we have as we prepared to enjoy our Thanksgiving dinners. Even if you didn't get any kernels of corn, I bet many of you took time on Thursday to think about some things in your life for which you are thankful. I was hoping you might be willing to share some of those things with us this morning.

(Kids share.)

Those are all great things! I have to tell you though, I gave this whole "thankfulness thing" a lot of thought, and I think that you'll all be very impressed with how seriously I took Thanksgiving this year. My first kernel of corn represented my family, because I love them very much. My second kernel of corn represented my friends, who are always there to listen and support me. My third kernel of corn was for my apartment. I'm very thankful to have a warm, safe place to live. So I decided to get my husband and me an even BIGGER apartment with all new furniture and fancy goose-down comforters in EVERY bedroom to keep us extra warm. My fourth kernel of corn represented food. We're very thankful to be able to afford good, healthy food... and to give us something to be EXTRA thankful for, we've decided to eat really fancy steaks EVERY NIGHT and drink that really expensive sparking grape juice! My fifth kernel was clothes, because I'm so fortunate to have something to wear each day. But then I got to thinking that some of my sweaters are kind of dorky and my favorite jeans are a little frayed, so I've decided to go buy a WHOLE NEW WARDROBE!!

So those were my five kernels.

But then I got to thinking, why stop there??? I have so many things that I would like to be thankful for that I went back and got more corn. So now I'm going to get a new car, my favorite TV series on DVD, an iPOD, and a new computer. And believe me, I will be very thankful for ALL of it!

So... what do you think? Did I get the meaning of those corn kernels or what??

Obviously, I'm kidding around. And I'm pretty sure that you all know Thanksgiving isn't meant to remind us to get everything we possibly can for ourselves and then thank God for it. But the truth is, I would love to have all that stuff! Especially at this time of year, it can be really tough to remember to thank God for all the wonderful things we DO have. And it can be even tougher to remember that part of being thankful is being willing to share all those wonderful things with others, even when it means we might need to give up a little bit ourselves. I think we could all use a reminder more often than one Thursday a year.

Good news though... we have a great reminder as often as we choose to take a look. Jesus is our reminder. He really didn't spend much time thinking about his apartment or fancy food or clothes. He always had his eyes on those who were poor or sick or alone. He shared with them, healed them, and loved them. Each time we take a look at Jesus, perhaps by hearing a story, by singing a song, or by praying, we are reminded to think of those around us who need our help.

So maybe we should keep one of those kernels of corn in our pocket all year round. To remind us to be thankful, of course. But also as a reminder to look to Jesus as our example of love and sharing.

Will you bow your heads and pray with me? [Rev. Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?]

Dear God,

Thank you so much for the wonderful things we have.

Help us remember to look at Jesus as our example.

Help us to love others and to share with others.

Amen.