

Thanksgiving



Around the World

While no other country has the same story of Thanksgiving as the USA, many places celebrate gratitude and harvest on other days and in other ways

In Brazil, many people enjoy the idea of Thanksgiving, so around the same time, many people celebrate "Acao de Gracas" (action of gratitude)

Thanksgiving is typically celebrated in the USA by a big meal together with family. Turkey and Pumpkin pie are common, as well as green beans, mashed potatoes, cornbread, and stuffing

In Haiti, they do not celebrate Thanksgiving, but work to be thankful in the face of many problems and difficulties

Sukkot is the harvest festival God commanded the Israelite people to celebrate in the Old Testament. It's a week long, where they are to build and stay in booths. It is normally in October

In Kenya, they don't really celebrate Thanksgiving, but when they get together for special meals, that is normally when they have meat called "Nyama choma"

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, it is okay to celebrate Thanksgiving, as it is a secular holiday, but many do not as it is more of a Western influence

In Tanzania, they don't celebrate Thanksgiving, but for special meals together they have roast beef or goat

In India, in the southern part, during Janaury many people celebrate Pongal, a four-day harvest festival that celebrates the harvest of crops like rice, turmeric, and sugarcane.

In Uganda, they don't celebrate Thanksgiving, but for special meals they often have seasoned chicken wrapped in smoked banana leaves

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A Basic History

1

Before
1600s

Various Harvest Festivals around the World

The Jews celebrated Sukkot, as God directed in the Old Testament, and many harvest festivals were celebrated in many cultures (they are well documented in China and India).

2

1621

Pilgrims celebrated in Plymouth, Mass.

This is the history that the USA celebration of Thanksgiving stems from. Many people had died of starvation the previous year, and so when the pilgrims received help from the Native Americans nearby, and had enough food the next harvest, they celebrated.

3

1863

President Lincoln declares it an official holiday

Thanksgiving was not widely celebrated in the USA before this time, and as it was during the Civil War, America needed something to remember and celebrate that could help unify them. In 1876 college football championships were first played on Thanksgiving, and 1924 was Macy's first parade. 1941 President Roosevelt set the official date as the 4th Thursday of November.

4

Now

Thanksgiving is a Big Deal

Thanksgiving in the USA is the biggest travel day of the year. Everyone wants to be with their families. About 50 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has become more commercialized, with Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) becoming the biggest retail day of the year (and then Cyber Monday). Giving Tuesday (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving) has become a time to give to worthy causes.

Thanksgiving

Connected to Missions

1



Write thank you letters to your missionaries or others who are often overlooked

While Thanksgiving is not celebrated around the world, gratitude certainly is!

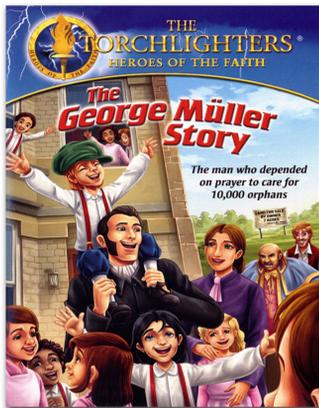
2



Use the 25 Activities from KidsEnjoyingJesus.com

This website has great Thanksgiving ideas, with videos, Bible verses, songs, and printable resources.

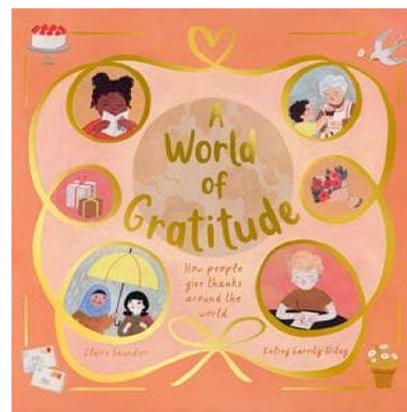
3



Learn about George Müller, the man who said Thank you for the food before the food arrived

This is a great book, as well as free video on YouTube channel Vision Video "The Torchlighters: The George Müller Story | Full Episode | Stephen Daltry | Alison Pettitt"

4



Learn more about how people say Thank You around the World

"World of Gratitude" by Claire Saunders and Kelsey Garrity-Riley helps you discover how different cultures and communities show gratitude. You can even learn to say "thank you" in over 50 different languages.