



Grateful for your heart for marriage . . . now you can save even more couples from divorce.

Dear Friend:

Happy Thanksgiving from all your friends at Focus on the Family! I hope you're looking forward to a wonderful holiday as we express our gratitude for God's immeasurable blessings.

For those of you who may be journeying through a difficult season and don't feel much like celebrating, it's my prayer that the Lord will comfort and sustain you. May He provide you with many tangible demonstrations of His unfailing love and care, and may we all be inspired by that courageous band of pilgrims who landed on America's shores nearly four centuries ago. Even after battling to survive during that first treacherous winter – and burying nearly half their group of just 102 *Mayflower* passengers – they believed it was important to praise God for His blessings.

HARDSHIP YIELDS GRATITUDE

It's been reported that only two huts were built during that first desperate winter.¹ The graves that were dug far outnumbered the shelters these Pilgrims managed to construct, and yet they steadfastly endured. In a brief yet striking passage found in *Of Plymouth Plantation*, the Plymouth Colony governor, William Bradford, recounts how the Pilgrims discovered corn and beans shortly after landing on America's shores. When Bradford wrote these words, he knew the calamity that awaited his small group, and yet he chose to focus on God's provision and care as he penned the following:

...it is to be noted as a special providence of God, and a great mercy to this poor people, that they thus got seed to plant corn the next year, or they might have starved ... But the Lord is never wanting unto His in their great need; let His holy name have all the praise.²

What a powerful reminder that the discipline and sacrifice of praise is never dependent on our circumstances, but is God's loving mandate to us because He knows our hearts are changed as we lift them to Him and speak of His goodness to us.

HOW I LEARNED TO TRULY GIVE THANKS

Even as a young boy living with my siblings and my single mom before she passed away, I was keenly aware that Thanksgiving allowed us the opportunity to set aside – if only for a day – the constant struggles that were part and parcel of our lives back then. Our financial situation was fairly bleak, but my mom worked hard to make Thanksgiving as memorable as our limited means allowed. I can still remember her cooking, sometimes for hours, just to put something special on the table.

In the years after my mother died and I was placed in foster care, Thanksgiving became much more unpredictable and untethered from any particular foods or traditions I might have enjoyed with my

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biological family. While the holidays were hard during those lonely and uncertain years, I believe the Lord was using those experiences to teach me that true joy must originate from a Source beyond our circumstances.

As a husband and father, Thanksgiving has become one of my favorite holidays – and it can certainly be tempting to focus on the delicious feast, the football games and parades, and even the opportunity to gather with friends and loved ones. And those are all good things, to be sure! However, I encourage you to spend some time this year reflecting on the Lord's incredible blessings to us – blessings that withstand even the darkest days and stormiest gales.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

In the Daly household, we make a concerted effort to “count our blessings” every year before tackling the turkey and stuffing. One year, in fact, in an effort to spark thought-provoking interaction around our table, I typed several Bible verses onto individual sheets of paper and included specific follow-up questions that tied into the corresponding verses. The idea was to have each member of the family read his or her verse aloud and then answer the question.

For instance, one of the sheets featured Psalm 13:6: “I will sing to the Lord for He has been good to me.” I then posed the question, “How has the Lord been good to you this year?” On another sheet I had printed out 1 Thessalonians 5:18: “Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you.” The follow-up question was, “Can you think of an example where giving thanks to God was a challenge? If you gave Him thanks anyway, what happened?”

As our family discussed these passages from Scripture and how we could apply them to our own lives and attitudes, we had a wonderful time of sharing and connecting over both the highlights of our year as well as a few of the struggles. During that conversation, we were able to acknowledge God's unfailing faithfulness to us throughout all the hills and valleys of our days on earth.

GIVING THANKS AT FOCUS ON THE FAMILY FOR . . .

Here at Focus, we are continually thankful that God has seen fit to multiply our outreach in the lives of hurting people. He uses friends like you to accomplish our work. As a result, marriages are being saved and strengthened! In the last year, 132,000 people say Focus helped save their marriage during a crisis. Some 780,000 claim the resources you provide strengthened their marriage in the last year.

Meanwhile, parents are gaining new confidence and practical skills to raise godly children. Precious babies are being rescued from abortion as pregnancy medical clinics are outfitted with ultrasound technology and training. Kids in the foster care system awaiting their “forever families” are being welcomed into loving homes. Students across the nation are boldly sharing their faith with their peers during our Bring Your Bible to School Day events. Teen girls are discovering biblical counsel and encouragement within the pages of *Brio* magazine. I could go on and on!

Of course, any discussion of our ministry's impact would be incomplete without a mention of our daily broadcast. Focus' flagship program has been encouraging couples and families since our doors opened over four decades ago, and we regularly hear from members of our audience who tell us

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that a specific broadcast was the impetus behind a saved marriage, a parenting crisis resolved, an involvement in the pro-life movement, or even a salvation decision. Many folks have let us know that they've been tuning in for years and that we aired a specific program on the very day they desperately needed to hear the message we relayed.

Here's what one listener shared about the impact of our daily broadcast on her life and family:

I have four children between the ages of 5 and 21. I became pregnant and was married before I was twenty. Both my husband and I were far away from the Lord, but thankfully, in answer to my mother's non-stop prayers, God pursued both of us. I have been listening to your program for 12 years. Your program has helped me in every area of my life. It helped heal my past regrets, bitterness and unforgiveness that chained me and affected my relationships for so long. Now it helps me by giving me a sense of direction, understanding, peace and compassion for the things that break the heart of God. Focus on the Family continues to help me deal with parenting, marriage, and my relationships with family, friends, and co-workers. Now I find that I'm filled with grace and love for others. Your program has strengthened my faith and my love for God. I'm so blessed with all the topics I listen to every day. Even if I can't relate at the moment, I learn new things and see beauty and the deepest needs of others through God's lens, and that in turn allows me to serve and inspire those around me. If there's one thing on this side of heaven I cannot live without (no, it's not my cell phone!), it's the Focus program. I thank the Lord for using you to be an encouragement to all who feel stuck, alone and unheard. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry. —Miranda, Illinois

And Elizabeth from Illinois had this to say:

My parents started listening to you in the '80s when you were a new organization. So when I was married, I began listening as well. I am a pastor's wife (we have been married 19 years) and a home schooling mom. We have four children ranging in age from 9-15 years. You never speak on something that doesn't pertain to me or someone I love – your topics are relevant and wise. Your program is excellently done and I listen knowing I will glean daily. I know that my walk with God has been greatly influenced and strengthened by the advice on your broadcast. I remember when the children were small, wishing I could hit pause while they interrupted. Now I can! I love listening on the podcast.

These testimonies offer such encouraging affirmation that the Lord is working powerfully through our radio outreach – and through each aspect of our ministry – to bring practical assistance and biblically anchored wisdom to families and individuals around the world.

SHARING THE GIFT OF FAMILY

With the help of friends like you, we are grateful for the God-given mission of sharing the GIFT OF FAMILY with individuals and families who are desperate for hope.

Saving marriages and offering God's redeeming grace to families is a task that is more important than ever. Families have always been the building blocks, the anchors of society. As emboldened

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cultural forces attempt to tear down marriages, families and faith, we need your help to continue this important work.

That is why I ask you to prayerfully consider sharing the GIFT OF FAMILY as we enter into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. The resources and programs of Focus on the Family depend on the generous support of friends like you and we could use your help. Your gift today will provide broken couples hope through our daily broadcasts, counseling resources, online and print articles, age-appropriate magazines, special events and more.

What better way to give thanks for all the abundant and undeserved blessings God has bestowed upon us than by blessing a couple and family in trouble? Please share your generous support to provide the GIFT OF FAMILY this holiday season and into the New Year.

TO HELP YOU CELEBRATE

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and begin preparing to celebrate our Savior's birth, you can download a free Advent resource called, *A Season of Hope*. It will help your family stay focused on the reason for the season as you countdown to Christmas with Scripture readings, devotions and activities. Go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/Advent.

We're looking ahead to 2020 with a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm for what God has planned, and your participation would be deeply appreciated as we continue laboring to help families thrive in Christ. Happy Thanksgiving!



Jim Daly
President

P.S. As you celebrate with your family this Thanksgiving, please remember to give the GIFT OF FAMILY with a hurting family in need of hope. As a nonprofit, almost 90 percent of Focus on the Family ministry is supported by donations from friends like you. Use the enclosed response card and envelope to return your year-end gift or visit FocusOnTheFamily.com to learn more.

1 <http://mayflowerhistory.com/houses>

2 Bradford, William, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, (Mineola: Dover Publications, Inc., 2006), 45-46.

FAMILY FOCUS®

FOR OUR PARTNERS IN FAMILY MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2019



Grateful, thankful and blessed

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

This Thanksgiving, Patricia has a lot to be thankful for. God has blessed her with 43 years of marriage, children and a grandchild. But there was a time when she thought she might lose it all.

At first she had a happy marriage as they started their life together . . . maybe not all that different from yours. But then, a few decades ago, “my marriage came under a tremendous attack,” she says. “My husband announced to me that he was in love with someone else and wanted me to file for a divorce.”

Patricia was devastated. How could she forgive? How could she move on?

“I felt like my whole world was reeling out of control,” Patricia remembers.

Friends like you helped save her marriage!

During this painful time in her life, Patricia turned to Focus on the Family. “(The broadcast) became my lifeline at this point,” she explains. “I’ll never forget listening to messages about marriage and staying the course no matter what is going on. The encouragement and biblical perspectives that were shared were like anchors that kept me from sailing out to a place that I would never return from.”

With God’s help and the resources friends like you provide, Patricia didn’t give up on her marriage but fought for it.

“It was not an easy choice, but God never left me—and neither did Focus on the Family,” she says. “God was faithful and my husband and I have remained married now for 43 years!”

God brought healing to her entire family. “My youngest son picked up some of the tapes from Focus on the Family and listened constantly to one on forgiveness.”

Then, God gave Patricia and her husband a wonderful gift. “My granddaughter was born and became—and still is—the light in my life! God truly blessed me, but I could

GRATEFUL STORY continued on page 2 ▶

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THIS ISSUE

Daly Focus
by Jim Daly

Strengthening your
marriage by giving thanks

Thank you for helping to build
stronger marriages in 2019!

Broadcast
Schedule





Daly Focus

By Jim Daly, President

Preparing a heart of gratitude in your marriage and family

As you gather with those you love for Thanksgiving, enjoy celebrating God's blessings. I also want to urge you to continue in gratitude as you prepare your heart for the Christmas season.

In fact, we want to help you instill thankfulness in your marriage and family throughout the holidays! One way you can do that is to observe Advent with your spouse and family.

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The Advent season focuses on a different theme each week in anticipation of Jesus' birth—hope for the Savior, preparation for his coming, celebration of the Messiah's arrival and God's peace and love. When you commemorate Advent through regular Bible studies, an Advent Calendar or Advent Wreath, you can keep an attitude of gratitude in your marriage and teach valuable lessons to the children you love.

You can download Focus on the Family's brand new Advent resource called, A Season of Hope, for FREE at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Advent.

Here are some activities you can do together as a couple or family:

- Purchase gifts for a needy child or family
- Serve together at a food bank or shelter
- Make Christmas cards for seniors or shut-ins
- Go Christmas caroling at a nursing home
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day church services

Jim

Grateful, thankful and blessed *Continued from page 1*

not have stayed the course alone.”

Thank you for saving marriages and families like Patricia's through the resources you provide.

Your generous gifts are saving marriages on the brink of divorce through efforts like Focus on the Family's *Hope Restored*® marriage intensives. Your generosity helped open a new Focus on the Family retreat center in Greenville, Michigan, which will increase the capacity to serve 450 more couples a year. Also, God opened the doors this year to start the search for a facility in Southern California. And through a facility expansion in Georgia we will also be reaching more couples in that region.

The resources you provide like our daily broadcast, print and online materials, and counseling resources helped 780,000 couples in the past year strengthen their marriages.

Patricia says she is not only thankful for God's blessings this season, but also for Focus on the Family friends like you. “Without you being there for me at such a time of despair, loneliness and hopelessness in my life, I fear that things would've gone so much differently. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

This is the kind of difference you make for couples and families through your support of Focus on Family. ■

He Said, She Said On *Thankfulness*

Strengthen your marriage by giving thanks

With Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley

Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley share how you can strengthen your marriage through thankfulness



GREG: Thanksgiving is a great time to remember why God brought you and your spouse together. Take a moment to give thanks for your spouse and you'll be surprised at how much it brings you closer. A genuine spirit of thankfulness can refresh your relationship.

ERIN: Take time alone with your spouse to tell him or her directly why you're thankful. This should involve not only thanking God, but also thanking your partner—directly and specifically—for the things he or she does that bless and enrich your life. Not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the year, we should make a concerted effort to express gratitude for our spouse and to our spouse!

GREG: Try this . . . either over dinner or at a quiet location afterwards, take turns talking openly and specifically about what makes you thankful for your spouse. Make a list together if you feel it would be helpful. Here are some ways you might complete the sentence, “I am thankful for you because . . .”

I have someone to share my life with.

I have someone to challenge me.

I have someone to laugh with.

I have someone to hold me accountable.

I have someone to hold me when life gets hard.

I have someone to cuddle with!

I have someone to come home to.

ERIN: Once you've made a list of general qualities, dig deeper. For example, talk about a specific time recently that your spouse made you laugh, or otherwise cheered you up, when you were having a bad day. Or if you're thankful for your spouse's parenting skills, cite a specific example of those skills in action. After you've shared some examples and spent time conveying gratitude toward one another, take a few minutes to pray together and express gratitude to God for each other and your marriage. This process has the potential to be a time of great connection, reminiscing and intimacy.

The broadcast schedule is subject to change. Listen to the Focus on the Family® Broadcast on your local radio station, your mobile device or online. If you've missed one of these broadcasts, listen online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Broadcast.

Broadcasts are brought to you by our partners — you!

DATE	TITLE	GUEST
11/1	Global Persecution and Your Faith	Rev. Johnnie Moore
11/4	Boone and Me: A Foster Adoption Story	Mr. Cecil Stokes and Boone Stokes
11/5	Building a Dream Marriage During the Parenting Years	Mrs. Arlene Pellicane
11/6	Walking Through Life's Valleys	Mr. Jim Daly
11/7-11/8	Better Ways to Communicate with Your Children I & II	Dr. Timothy Johanson and Mr. Michael Anderson
11/11	Healing the Wounds of War	Mr. Dave Roeber
11/12	Getting Organized for Christmas	Mrs. Kathi Lipp
11/13-11/14	Saving Your Marriage with Love and Respect I & II	Mrs. Lisa Shea
11/15	Overcoming Envy	Mrs. Tilly Dillehay
11/18-19	Guiding Your Child's Media Choices I & II	Mr. Jonathan McKee
11/20	Understanding Our Mission in the Culture	Mr. John Stonestreet
11/21	You Can Have a Healthy Family (Even if Yours Wasn't)	Mrs. Elizabeth Oates
11/22	Understanding the Two Different Sides of Love	Dr. John Trent
11/25	Are You a Good Listener?	Pastor Ted Cunningham
11/26	The Beautiful Struggle to Forgive	Mr. Jason Romano
11/27	The Year My Family (Sort of) Didn't Complain	Mrs. Tricia Goyer
11/28	The Heroic Heart of the Pilgrims	Mr. Rod Gragg
11/29	How Advent Changed My Perspective on Christmas	Mrs. Asheritah Ciuciu

* The broadcast schedule is subject to change.

DATE	TITLE	GUEST
12/2	Seeing the Value of Every Person	Ms. Emily Colson
12/3-12/4	Growing Your Marriage in Times of Stress I & II	Mr. Milan and Mrs. Kay Yerkovich
12/5-12/6	Helping Your Daughter Become a Confident Woman I & II	Dr. Meg Meeker
12/9-12/10	Motivating Kids to Reflect the Character of God I & II	Dr. Kathy Koch
12/11-12/12	Discovering God's Freedom from Pornography I & II	Mr. Nick and Mrs. Michelle Stumbo
12/16	Enjoying Marriage at Any Age	Pastor Ted Cunningham
12/17-12/18	Sharing the Gospel Through Hospitality I & II	Mrs. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield
12/19-12/20	Raising Boys to be Godly Young Men I & II	Dr. Meg Meeker
12/23	Trusting God with Your Adult Child	Mrs. Jodie Berndt
12/24-12/25	Memories of Christmas I & II	Call-in
12/26	How to Raise Strong Believers	Mrs. Natasha Crain
12/27	Making Daily Choices to Love Your Spouse	Mr. Ron and Mrs. Deb DeArmond
12/30-12/31	Finding Your Path in Life I & II	Mrs. Cynthia Tobias

Feature Guest:



Morgan Weistling

Award-winning artist Morgan Weistling created a one-of-a-kind painting to illustrate the power of Sharing the Light in the darkness. You can get your special edition giclée print, hand signed by the artist, with your ministry gift of \$150 or more today. **Order by December 11 and receive your print by Christmas!** Thank you!



Use the enclosed response card to mark your gift and print request or go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/Art19.



Check out our YouTube channel
FocusOnTheFamily.com/YouTube

Thank you for helping to build stronger marriages in 2019!

Thank you for helping to save over 130,000 marriages on the brink of divorce in the last 12 months through critical resources from Focus on the Family. From articles and books to efforts like the *Hope Restored*™ intensives, God is using you to restore marriages.

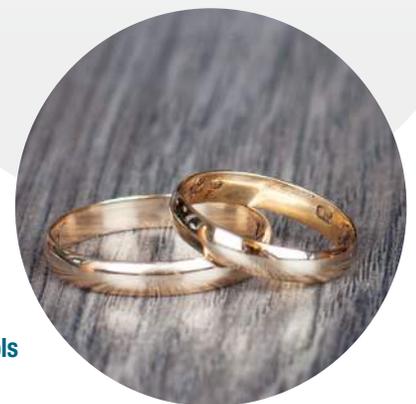
Your generosity helped open a new retreat center in Greenville, Michigan, which will increase the capacity to serve 450 more couples a year. Also, God opened the doors this year to start the search for a facility in Southern California. And through a facility expansion in Georgia we will also be reaching more couples in that region. Here's an example of the impact your support makes:

“I came to the *Hope Restored* intensive knowing we were at a crossroads in our marriage. We had been separated and thought divorce was the

only option. A spark of hope emerged. Our resolve to stay married has been rekindled. We have a lot of healing to do but have the tools to handle the conflicts.”

—*Hope Restored* Intensive Participant

The resources you helped provide like our daily broadcast, print and online materials, and counseling resources helped 780,000 couples in the past year strengthen their marriages.



Sharing the Light

Get Your Own **MORGAN WEISTLING**
Special Edition Giclée Print!



Receive Morgan Weistling's "Sharing the Light" special edition giclée print, hand signed by the artist, with your gift of \$150 or more to support Focus on the Family.

[OVER >](#)

“Sharing the Light” depicts a winter scene that centers around the light of Christ. Turn-of-the-century children reveal the power of sharing a single flame in the darkness.

You'll want this unique timeless print for your home this holiday season and all year as a reminder of a more simple time. Hang it in your family room or dining area as a reminder of God's Great Commission to Share the Light. Use it as a conversation starter with your children and grandchildren. And it's the perfect gift for those you love!

Share your gift and request your copy of this special edition giclée print, hand signed by the artist, online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Art19 or call 1-800-A-FAMILY (232-6459). **Order by December 11 and receive your print by Christmas!**

About the artist

Morgan Weistling began his professional art career at age 19 and became a much-sought-after movie poster illustrator.

After years of commercial and financial success, Weistling realized that his ability was a gift from God. He accepted Jesus Christ and asked God to use his talents. The very next day someone from Focus on the Family called him about illustrating!

Today as a husband and father, Weistling loves how God uses Focus on the Family to impact families like his own. That is why Weistling created this special edition print for supporters like you.

Get your copy now by:

- Investing in families with a gift of \$150. Or,
- Joining Friends of Focus on the Family for \$10 or more a month.

Call 800-A-FAMILY (232-6459) or go online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Art19.



Jim Daly and John Fuller interviewing Morgan Weistling.



Morgan Weistling and his wife, JoAnn and their two daughters, Brittany and Sienna.

Parenting Corner with Danny Huerta



Model the benefits of a thankful heart for your kids

Danny Huerta is Focus on the Family's vice president of the Parenting and Youth department

Thanksgiving is a great time to start taking a more strategic role in teaching the benefits of a thankful heart for your children. But modeling gratitude is best done all year long.

And the great news is that you can start cultivating an attitude of gratitude in your children no matter their age. Here are some age-appropriate ideas:

Ages 0-3, Contentment

This age offers a great opportunity to teach contentment, an essential ingredient for gratitude in later years. Simply giving thanks at meal times or showing them that you have joy no matter what your circumstances is a great start.

Ages 4-7, Serving Others

Gratitude can be difficult for kids who are ages 4 to 7. They have learned that things, food and attention can trigger immediate feelings. This is why it is important to teach your kids about serving others at this early age. Kids

love the response of gratitude from adults and others they have served. It shows them a live example of gratitude.

Ages 8-12, Awareness

This age group can think more rationally and logically. You can teach your child that awareness is an important part of gratitude. Show examples of how much need there is in their community, country and the world. This helps them better understand and appreciate the value of what they have.

Ages 13-18, Action

It can be hard for teens to put gratitude into practice. They are dealing with stress, pressure and distractions. It's important for parents to intentionally reinforce concepts that their teens learned at earlier ages and to encourage them to be aware of how others may be feeling. Turn awareness into action by serving together at a local outreach ministry, soup kitchen, food bank or other service-minded effort.

For other parenting resources visit FocusOnTheFamily.com/Parenting. ■

Share the Gift of Family to save marriages and families!

Give thanks for the blessings in your marriage this season by sharing the Gift of Family through your support of Focus on the Family. Hurting couples and families need hope!

Your gift will help save marriages on the brink of divorce, equip parents to raise children bold in faith, rescue babies from abortion, reach families in crisis, help waiting children in foster care and more. We need your help to finish out the year strong and be ready to share Christ's peace, grace and joy with more hurting families in the year ahead. Your support will make both an immediate and an eternal difference for hurting families like Sheila's.

"I didn't become a Christian until five years into my marriage. As the years passed and marriage separation and reconciliation took place, Focus guided me in my relationship with the Lord as well as "how-tos" in my

marriage and family relationships. Now over 30 years later, our three grown children each have a personal relationship with Jesus. God is good and brought the Focus ministry into my life, and it has changed the legacy and heritage within our family."

— Sheila, Indiana

Will you help us share the Gift of Family with struggling couples and families by giving generously today?

When you give to support our daily broadcasts, print and online articles and counseling resources, you are sharing the Gift of Family. And now, with your ministry gift of \$150 or

more, you'll get a copy of award-winning artist Morgan Weistling's *Sharing the Light* special edition giclée print hand signed by the artist.

As God leads you, please use the enclosed reply form and envelope to return your generous gift. ■

Give the Gift
of
Family

Friends of
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Share the Gift of Family each and every month!

When you join our *Friends of Focus on the Family* program as a loyal monthly supporter, you'll help provide resources that empower families.

As a *Friends of Focus on the Family* member, you'll receive monthly updates that report on how you are helping us make an eternal impact with practical results for families, as well as special offers and resources. Call 888-862-6767 today.

To learn more go to
FocusOnTheFamily.com/Pledge



Get Ready for Advent!

Download Focus on the Family's brand new Advent resource called, *A Season of Hope*, for FREE! It will help your family stay focused on the reason for the season as you countdown to Christmas with Scripture readings, devotions and activities.

For more information, go to
FocusOnTheFamily.com/Advent.



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