

TIME WITH GOD

DAILY CONVERSATIONS: God's Gift of Grace

Tony was invited to Mike's birthday dinner. Tony bought Mike a red tie because he knew Mike loved the color red. He also knew Mike liked to dress nice. When Mike opened the package he was very excited. He said, "Thank you, thank you!" At dinner, they celebrated with chocolate birthday cake. When it was time to go home, Tony said, "Thanks for inviting me to your birthday dinner." Mike and Tony know when someone gives them something, it is always good to say "thank you."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever been given a gift? If so, what gift were you given?
- Did you thank the person who gave you this gift?
- What is the best gift you have ever been given?
- Why was it the best gift?

Our Father in heaven gave us a gift. God's gift is his Son, Jesus. Jesus lived on earth, died on the cross and rose from the dead. He did this because of his compassionate love for us so even when our body dies, we will live in heaven with God some day. He did this for all people everywhere! That's a gift better than anything we may have been given for a birthday! God's gift of his love is the best present we can receive. It's a big reason to say thank you to God each and every day.

We just heard God gives us the gift of heaven. Do we have to do anything to get this gift?

God gives us the gift of heaven free. We do not have to do anything to receive this gift; we just have to believe in Jesus. Luke 23:43 tells us that when Jesus was on the cross, the man being crucified next to him said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!" And, Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Because of God's love in our hearts, we want to be kind, take care of those who are sick, and give to those struggling with poverty. We don't do these things to earn God's love. It is a gift that is given freely.

FOCUS VERSE:

"I give thanks to God. He will do it through Jesus Christ our Lord."

-ROMANS 7:25 NLRV

NOTES:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever thought you had to do things to earn God's love?
- What kinds of things did you believe you had to do for God to love you?
- What are gifts you feel you have received from God?
- Have you prayed a prayer of thanksgiving?

Along with the promise of heaven, we get gifts every day. Think about the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the home we live in, the people who are for us; these are all gifts. They are all reasons to say thank you—thank you to others and thank you to God.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for this day. Thank you for always being with us and caring for us. Thank you for sending Jesus. We know if we believe in him, we will live in heaven with you some day. Thank you for friends and family and help us to remember to care for others. Thank you for each gift you give us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.