

**Psalm 92:1 – “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High”**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- Thanksgiving feast lasted for three days; how thankful they were for God’s blessing

- Happy to be in a land where they could worship God freely

- Thanksgiving celebrated for many years on different days

- Sarah Hale wrote letters urging government officials to adopt National Thanksgiving Day

- In the 1800’s, after 17 years, her efforts were rewarded

#### **FT 7 – National Holiday**

- President Lincoln declared last Thurs. in Nov. as “*A day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father.*”

- Some Americans enjoy the food on Thanksgiving but forget to thank God for His blessings

#### **CHALLENGE**

- Already received Jesus

**G** – Go over **MT**  
**YOU SHOULD THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU**

**R** – Review PAS verse

**Psalm 92:1 – “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High.”**

**O** – Overview PAS Examples

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**W** – Will you do it?

#### **INVITATION**

**John 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son** (believe in your heart that Jesus can take away your sin if you ask Him) **hath everlasting life** (life to live in Heaven) ....”

**S**  
**P, E**  
**L**  
**BOW HEADS**  
**RESPONSE**

#### **THE FIRST THANKSGIVING**

- Can you think of someone who did something special for you?

- Perhaps your mom got you just what you wanted for your B-day

- Maybe dad took you to a very special place

- What should you say to them? “Thank you”

- In America, we have a lot to be thankful for; we even have a day set aside to say “Thank You”

- I want to help you understand why we have a Thanksgiving Day; what makes it special

#### **FT 1 – A Stormy Voyage**

- A long time ago, King James I of England did not let people worship God freely

- So, a group of Christians called Pilgrims left England & went to Holland to freely worship God

- Later, they decided to leave Holland and sail to New World

- On Sept 6, a ship named the *Mayflower* sailed from England

- ... to the New World America

- In mid-ocean, the storms finally overtook them

- The *Mayflower* was battered by wind and waves

- The only food they had was beans, salt pork, and hardtack

- Many got sick; one man was swept overboard by a huge wave!

- They must have wondered if God loved them

**G**

- It took 7 long weeks to complete their trip across the Atlantic to America

- When Pilgrims finally saw the New World on the horizon they must have thanked God

**MT – YOU SHOULD THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU**

- Pilgrims were grateful for what God had done to bring them safely to America

## FT 2 – Arrival in New World

- *Mayflower* sailed along the coast of Massachusetts
- 16 men in a small boat went ashore first to get water & food
- Later, they began to build houses and set up camp; women waited on board ship
- Weather that November was very cold in Massachusetts

## FT 3 – Much Work to Do

- Men/boys worked hard to build shelters for families
- Four long months women and kids waited onboard the ship
- They had to keep watch for Indians; Pilgrims wondered if Indians would be hostile
- Winter was coming; food would be very scarce as crops couldn't be planted until spring
- America was beautiful, but had no roads, cities, or places to buy what they needed
- It was worth the hardships to worship God freely

- They knew who God was

**O**

- Pilgrims were glad to be off the *Mayflower*, but winter was harsh; half colony died

## FT 4 – Squanto's Help

- One day two Indians came to visit; Chief Samoset/Squanto
- Pilgrims knew they had to make friends quickly with Indians or face being *killed!*

**S, PAU**

**Psalm 51:5 – “Behold, I was shaped in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

- Pilgrims wanted Indians to know they did not come to hurt or harm them
- One of the Pilgrims wanted to make peace with Indians
- He took gifts of jewelry, biscuits, and butter to offer the Indian Chief Massasoit

- Everyone waited anxiously as Pilgrim Edward Winslow approached the Indians

- Winslow presented gifts to Chief Massasoit who laid down his bow; told others to do same

- After talking with Winslow, Chief agreed to talk to the other Pilgrims, but kept Winslow as a hostage

- After talking with Pilgrims, Chief and his men understood that the Pilgrims wanted peace

- The Pilgrims were thankful God was protecting them

**MT – YOU SHOULD THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU**

- Squanto didn't leave with other Indians; stayed to help teach Pilgrims how to fish, hunt, plant

- Pilgrims knew God had sent Squanto to help them, or they wouldn't have survived

- That reminds me of how God sent His Son to help us

**P, E**

**Romans 5:6 – “... Christ died for the ungodly.”**

## FT 5 – Preparing for Feast

- Less than a year after they arrived, they had 11 buildings in their settlement

- They stored corn they got from Indians, dried fish they caught, and dried deer meat

- Governor Bradford, leader of settlement, said they would have feast to celebrate ...

- ... God's goodness to them; women baked, men shot wild game for this feast

- Governor Bradford invited Chief Massasoit to join them in first Thanksgiving feast

- To everyone's surprise, he and 90 Indian warriors came

## FT 6 – First Thanksgiving

- Finally food was ready; a Pilgrim stood to thank God for His blessings to them that year

- He thanked God for good help, safety, and His protection

**MT, PAS – YOU SHOULD**

**THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU**