

## Response to Available and Active (8/28/22)

**Main Verses:** I Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Key Verse:** I Thessalonians 5:16-18

**'Takeaway':** Because his grace is always available and active, God calls his children to always be rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks.

**Getting Started:** What are you thankful for? Why?

**READ** I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (or have older kids help read).



Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What does it mean to rejoice? What is the difference between joy and happy?
- Do you think “pray without ceasing” means to pray all day long? Why or why not?
- When is it hard for you to give thanks?
- Why can we do these things (rejoice, pray, and give thanks) even when we don’t like the ways things are going?

Elementary:

- What is the will of God for you, according to these verses?
- What does each of the three verbs mentioned here (“rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances”) mean for every day life?
- Why can we always be rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks, even when things aren’t going the way we’d like them to go?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- God’s grace makes it possible for us to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, [and] give thanks in all circumstances”.
- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit—it’s something God develops in us as we know and love him. It is lasting because it is from God; happiness comes from what’s happening around us.
- “Pray without ceasing” is an attitude of our heart where we are aware of God throughout our day and we humbly submit to God in the details of life.
- God wants us to be thankful at all times for the gifts he has given us - especially the gift of new life through his Son, Jesus.

Elementary:

- God’s grace is available to us and active for us at all times. This makes it possible for us to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, [and] give thanks in all circumstances”.
- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit—it’s something God develops in us as we know and love him. We have joy because our hope is firm in God’s merciful grace and provision for us.
- “Pray without ceasing” is an attitude of our heart where we are aware of God throughout our day and we humbly submit to God in the details of life.
- God wants us to be thankful at all times for the gifts he has given us - especially the gift of new life through his Son, Jesus.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God’s word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him that his grace is always available and active for his children. Ask him to help you rejoice in him because of all he’s done for us. Ask God to help you learn to pray without ceasing, being always aware of him in your daily life. Ask him to help you to be thankful always for the great gifts he has given you - especially the gift of new life through his Son, Jesus.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him that his grace is always available and active for his children. Thank God that because our hope is firm in him, we can rejoice always. Thank him that he is always available for you to “pray without ceasing”; ask him to help you be aware of his presence in your daily life. God wants to help us, and wants us to ask him for help. Ask God to help you be thankful in all things, even the tough things. Thank God for the gift of new life he gives us through faith in his Son, Jesus.