

# September: Living the Gospel Blesses My Family

www.sugardoodle.net



We can speak our thanks, we can write our thanks, we can sing about how thankful we are, we can feel thankful in our hearts. There are many ways to show our thanks to Heavenly Father. It is good for us to thank Him often. Heavenly Father asks us to be grateful—to express our thanks—because He knows that a grateful heart helps us feel happy.

The scriptures remind us of many things we can be grateful for. In the Book of Mormon, Jacob, the brother of Nephi, had a difficult time engraving his record on the plates. Even though it was hard, he was glad to do it because it would last for years and years. He hoped that whoever finally read those words in the Book of Mormon would receive them with a thankful heart.

In the Doctrine and Covenants, we learn that we should use and be grateful for all the wholesome herbs, fruits, and other food the Lord gave us.

There is a wonderful account in the scriptures about being grateful. One day when Jesus came to a certain village, ten men who were lepers stood far off and called to Him. Lepers had to stay far away from people so that no one else would catch their disease. They wanted Jesus to heal them of their leprosy. Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they went, a miracle happened—they were healed. There is a sad part to this story. Ten men were healed. Only one of them turned back to give thanks—only one out of ten! Let us be sure that we always remember to say thank you.



An old Jewish legend tells of two brothers, Abram and Zimri, who owned a field and worked it together. They agreed to divide both the labor and the harvest equally. One night as the harvest came to a close, Zimri could not sleep, for it didn't seem right that Abram, who had a wife and seven sons to feed, should receive only half of the harvest, while he, with only himself to support, had so much.

So Zimri dressed and quietly went into the field, where he took a third of his harvest and put it in his brother's pile. He then returned to his bed, satisfied that he had done the right thing.

Meanwhile, Abram could not sleep either. He thought of his poor brother, Zimri, who was all alone and had no sons to help him with the work. It did not seem right that Zimri, who worked so hard by himself, should get only half of the harvest. Surely this was not pleasing to God. And so Abram quietly went to the fields, where he took a third of his harvest and placed it in the pile of his beloved brother.

The next morning, the brothers went to the field and were both astonished that the piles still looked to be the same size. That night both brothers slipped out of their houses to repeat their efforts of the previous night. But this time they discovered each other, and when they did, they wept and embraced. Neither could speak, for their hearts were overcome with love and gratitude.

This is the spirit of compassion: that we love others as ourselves, seek their happiness, and do unto them as we hope they would do unto us. When we serve others we are only in the service of God.



SEPTEMBER WEEK 1

I show my gratitude by offering

thanks for all my blessings.

SEPTEMBER WEEK 2

By giving service to others, I

give service to God.

## SEPTEMBER WEEK 3

We believe in being honest.



The Book of Mormon tells us about a special group of people who were honest and true to their faith. They were Lamanites who heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, had faith in him, repented of their sins, and were baptized members of his Church. They called themselves Anti-Nephi-Lehies. Because they learned that it was wrong to fight, they buried their weapons of war in the ground and made a covenant with Heavenly Father that they “never would use weapons again” (Alma 24:18). They kept this covenant and all the commandments so faithfully that they were known for being “perfectly honest and upright in all things”.

The Anti-Nephi-Lehies taught their children to be honest. They wanted their sons and daughters to be true to the gospel and righteous in their dealings with each other and with Heavenly Father. Because the example of their parents was so great, the children wanted to be just as honest and true to the gospel themselves.

The Book of Mormon describes the boys when they grew up: “And they were all young men, and they were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity; but behold, this was not all—they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted”.

These young Anti-Nephi-Lehies became famous as “Helaman’s stripling warriors.” Because of their honesty and their spiritual strength, they were a great help to their people.

You can be like the army of Helaman. You can follow the example of the righteous Lamanites and be honest and true.



## SEPTEMBER WEEK 4

By living the gospel I set a good example for others to follow.

After Jesus died, a great Apostle named Paul wrote to members of the Church about how we can be an example of the believers, or a better follower of the Savior. When we do what the Apostle Paul taught, we honor the Savior and His name and we are an example for other people of the Savior’s teachings. Paul wrote, “Let no man despise [look down on] thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”.

Elder Henry B. Eyring’s friends call him “Hal.” He told a story in general conference about a friend he once worked with. His friend was a good person who loved his family. Elder Eyring never told his friend about the gospel and how families can be together forever. One day, he heard that his friend had died. Elder Eyring said that he sometimes wonders if he will meet his friend in heaven and his friend will say, “Hal, you knew—why didn’t you tell me?” Now Elder Eyring shares his testimony with people all over the world. We can be a good example like President Eyring. We can share our testimonies with others. We can be missionaries now and invite our friends to Primary and to Primary activities. Blessings will come to others and our faith in Jesus Christ will grow.

When we follow the Savior, choose the right, and avoid using bad language, we set a good example for other to follow.

