



WEEK FOUR

1 KINGS 17:7-16

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THIS

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THANKFUL FOR?  
I AM THANKFUL FOR  
PEOPLE WHO HELP ME.



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BATH TIME

While bathing your child, add some plastic toy food items to the bath water. Ask your child to line them up on the edge of the tub, name them, and then count them. Talk about how thankful you are for the people who help give you food, like farmers, truck drivers, and grocery store clerks.

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REMEMBER THIS

"Always give thanks to God."  
Ephesians 5:20, NCV

BASIC  
TRUTH

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## DANGERS OF AN UNGRATEFUL LIFE

By Reggie Joiner

We all look forward to our annual celebrations each year to celebrate the big and little things that have happened in our life. But if we live our lives without looking for ways to demonstrate gratitude more consistently than at an annual meal, we could ultimately set our family and our kids up for a dangerous future. Think about it. When you don't practice gratitude . . .

### YOU DEVELOP AN UNHEALTHY EGO

A healthy ego is important. You want your kids to grow up with the confidence to pursue and accomplish goals and to believe in themselves. But that's different from them believing they are better than everyone else. When you develop the habit of expressing GRATITUDE, you build a constant reminder of how others have contributed to your success.

### YOU INVITE THE WRONG KIND OF FRIENDS

The best way to burn through good friendships fast is to never show gratitude. You can expect the right kind of friends to avoid ungrateful people. At the same time, those who are ungrateful will tend to attract friends who are the same.

### YOU FUEL AN ATTITUDE OF ENTITLEMENT

If you want your kid to grow up and believe, "The world owes me," then let his or her ungrateful attitude go unchecked. Gratitude recognizes the value other people add to your

life. Entitlement implies that others do for you because they recognize your importance. Without a habit of gratitude, you convince yourself the rest of the world should help you because you deserve it.

### YOU BREED DISCONTENTMENT

We all tend to drift toward an "it's never enough" attitude because we focus on our wants. Whenever you show gratitude, you are simply readjusting your focus. Gratitude is simply turning your attention from what you don't have to what you do have. If you want your children to become content adults, then help them learn to be grateful for what they have.

### YOU NURTURE A CRITICAL SPIRIT

Did you ever stop to think that practicing a positive virtue actually helps you overcome a negative attitude? If you have a tendency to be jealous, learn to praise and celebrate what others accomplish. If you have a problem with being critical or negative, then become intentional about showing gratitude.

So, it's that simple. If you want to raise . . . Egotistical, Lonely, Entitled, Discontent, and Negative Kids, then don't practice GRATITUDE in your house.

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