Five Kernels Sun Am KZ Lesson 11/14/21

# Memory Verse: Psalm 107:8 NKJV

# 8Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the Lord *for* His goodness, And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!

Target Thought: There is ALWAYS something to be thankful for.

On September 1620, approximately 100 English men and women set sail for the New World aboard the Mayflower. The ship landed on the shores of what we now know as Massachusetts and anchored at Plymouth Rock. It was there that they would form the first permanent settlement in New England. More than half of the original settlers died during the first winter. This group of families were called the pilgrims. They suffered and some died because they wanted to be free to worship God.

The native people who lived in the area around the Plymouth Colony were members of various tribes of the Wampanoag people who had lived in the area for many years. Soon after settling there, the Pilgrims came in contact with Squanto, an English-speaking native. Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn, which became an important crop, as well as where to fish and hunt. These indian people loved God, they wanted to help the pilgrims, they had God’s love in their hearts and wanted the best for the pilgrims.

Our Thanksgiving holiday stems from a feast held in the autumn of 1621 by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians to celebrate the colony's first successful harvest. Thanksgiving was proclaimed an official National holiday by President Abraham Lincoln on November 26, 1863.

There are many Thanksgiving traditions, but one of my favorites is the Five Kernels of Corn tradition. Many people follow a tradition of placing five kernels of corn on the empty plate at each place on the Thanksgiving dinner table. These five kernels of corn serve as a reminder of days when food was scarce and how God provides for our needs. Before the meal, each person removes each of the five kernels of corn from his or her plate and tells five things for which he or she has to be thankful.

Here are five things I am thankful for:

* **Kernel 1:** I am thankful that **God loves me**.
* **Kernel 2:** I am thankful that **God provides for my needs**.
* **Kernel 3:** I am thankful for my **friends**.
* **Kernel 4:** I am thankful for my **family.**
* **Kernel 5:** I am thankful that **God hears and answers prayers**.

We should be thankful at Thanksgiving, but we should be thankful everyday. Let’s remember our target thought, there is always something, more than one, to be thankful for. What are some things that you are thankful for? Not only should we always be thankful, we should show our gratitude with our actions like the Indians did.

Dear God, Thank you for providing for all our needs and for loving us. Help us to be thankful and to show it. We Love You! Amen.

Why did the pilgrims come to New England.

Why did the Indians want to help the pilgrims?

When should we be thankful?