Precious Moments of Blessing

Patsy Rowe, Bowmanville, Ontario

ncourage those who have a collection of "Precious Moments" figurines to participate by bringing one or more of their collection to mount a display and/or share a personal memory of a Precious Moment that has happened in their life

Introduction of Theme

Precious Moments: Some people collect them; others live them and call them 'blessings'. Precious Moments or Blessings — we are surrounded by them everyday; yet there are times when we fail to recognize them

and to respond to them with thanksgiving. Today, let us do just that — recognize our blessings and respond with thanksgiving to God

We will begin our journey by reading Psalm 139 together.

Devotional

Precious Moments are Blessings from God. After sharing precious moments with each other — one thing is certain, they are blessings from God even if we didn't recognize them at the time.

The very words 'precious moments' make us think of something positive that has happened



to us personally, or to others when we have been present. Such moments are recalled with joy and thanksgiving. To fully appreciate the precious moment, and to bask in its full glory, we must do so with the realization that all blessings in life come from God, to whom we must give thanks.

Today as we take a few minutes to reflect on the goodness of God, and the many blessings we have received, we should resolve to express our thanks by being a blessing to others.

Invite the women to fill in the Count Your Blessings Thanksgiving Survey. Then follow through with personal reflection and response.

Count Your Blessings — Thanksgiving Survey

Fill in the blank beside each letter with something that you consider a blessing of God that begins with that letter.

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Personal Reflection and Response

1 Chronicles 16:34 says: "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good, for his mercy endureth forever". Name a way that God has been good to you recently.

Name someone that God has placed in your life and is a blessing to you.

Having reflected on how God has blessed you, identify someone — relative, friend, colleague — this week to whom you can find a way of showing practical support.

Here are a few ideas:

- Send someone a card to encourage them.
- Take someone a batch of cookies or freshly baked bread
- Make dinner and deliver to someone who is alone.
- Offer to take a senior grocery shopping.
- Visit a lonely elderly person.
- Send someone flowers just for the fun of it. The list can be endless!

Scripture: In Psalm 139 - (NIV)

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Father in heaven, we recognize and thank vou that vou are our Provider. We thank vou that, before we were born, you provided those who loved us. We thank you for providing those who taught us to love others as you love us. We thank you for surrounding us with the signs of your love for us — your creation. We thank you for friends, as we laugh and cry together, as we serve each other and as we together serve others. We thank you for helping us to recognize the many blessings we often take for granted. We also thank you that you give us a heart of compassion and love for those who find it difficult to recognize your blessings. Our desire is that you would use us to share your love with others. We are so blessed and we want to be a blessing. We give glory to your name and give thanks in anticipation for the many ways you will use us to create precious moments in the lives of those around us — here in our church, in our workplace, in our homes and the communities where we live

Conclude With Refreshments