

# Thankfulness

## God's inexpressible gift

### Foundation

#### Bible passage: 2 Corinthians 9.15

We all like to receive presents and there may be various times, such as Christmas and birthdays when children have received them. We may like to receive them but how good are we at remembering to say thank you? It can be a constant battle with younger children to get them to say please and thank you. Writing thank you letters has probably been replaced by e-mails or texts, but we do often have to express our thanks in writing as well as spoken word. It is not always easy to find the right words.

In 2 Corinthians 9 verse 15 Paul writes about God's gift. As explained in the box below this unit assumes that the gift referred to is God's Son, Jesus. But how was Paul to describe both the gift, and his gratitude in words. In John 3.16 it is clearly about the Son of God coming into the world in order that through Him we might be forgiven.

In his letters Paul is not normally lost for words but here he simply resorts to describing it

#### Note

There are different views as to what Paul is referring to in this verse. He has been talking about the importance of giving and then launches into an exclamation "thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift". It is possible that he is referring to God's grace (the Greek word translated here at thanks can also be translated as grace) or to the gift of grace, which is Christ. In a way these are just aspects of the same thing. These notes assume that the gift is Jesus, based on the famous words in John 3.16: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..."



as "God's inexpressible gift. We could spend a lifetime trying to understand and properly explain what it means but would fail.

"He gave His only Son"

Despite this it is right that we do express our thanks to God and during this module we will look at various ways to do that including through words and songs.

As explained in the introduction it is suggested that the children have opportunity to reflect on thankfulness including by filling in a booklet or writing a journal, or electronic equivalent. Each unit will include some pointers as to how to do that.

#### Booklet:

What does Paul give thanks for? - Christ  
How did Paul give thanks? Words were not enough to describe this wonder gift, so Paul used the simple expression "thanks be to God".

#### Reflection:

Think about something you can give thanks for.  
How might you express your thanks?



**The nature of God's gift to us in Jesus is so deep that mere words cannot describe it. Even so, we should still give thanks.**