

Let's Be a Blessing During the Holidays!

My favorite time of the year is almost here — Thanksgiving and Christmas! There's something about the holiday season that just makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside. Maybe it's the delicious treats that we only get to eat around now, or the Christmas lights that give everything a magical glow. Or maybe it's the fact that the holidays often make people feel happy and loving toward one another!

Even though there's a special feeling around the holidays, it's easy to start thinking about ourselves. After all, aren't we excited about what gifts we might get on Christmas morning? Or the special events or maybe even vacations we have planned?

This holiday season, Mack and I decided to come up with some ways we can think of others before ourselves. That way, we can be generous with our money, time and talents so that other people are blessed! After all, we see throughout the Bible the importance of giving to others and looking out for their interests and not just our own. And one of the ways we can be like Jesus is by being a blessing!

In Acts 20:35b, the Apostle Paul reminds us of something Jesus said:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (NLT).

So this holiday season, let's find creative ways to give to others as a family!

Here are some ideas to get your family started:

Host a bake sale.

Bake sales are a fun, easy way to spread some holiday cheer through yummy goodies while also raising money for a good cause! Use whatever money you make to give presents to kids who won't get any this year, like through Operation Christmas Child.



Start a food drive.

Food drives are a great way to help families in need get a delicious meal for the holidays. Talk to your church about collecting food for either Thanksgiving or Christmas baskets, and look for local charities that can help you give these baskets



to families who wouldn't be able to afford a holiday meal on their own. You can even set a goal as a family (or a church) for how many baskets you'd like to collect food for!

Clean out your toy box or closet.

Sometimes we have a lot of toys that we don't play with anymore or clothes we've outgrown. The holidays are a great time to go through your toys and closet and find things that you don't use anymore (but that are still in good condition) and donate them to kids in need.



Bake cookies for your local fire department or police station.

Firefighters and police officers work hard every day to keep people safe — even during the holidays! You can help spread some holiday cheer while also thanking them for all they do by baking cookies and delivering them to the fire department or police station. It's a great (and easy!) way to say thanks.



Visit a nursing home.

An easy and fun way to be a blessing is to visit a nursing home as a family (or as a group of families) and sing some carols for the elderly residents.



You'll brighten their day, and you might even get the chance to hear some cool stories from when they were your age!

Send a handwritten note to soldiers.

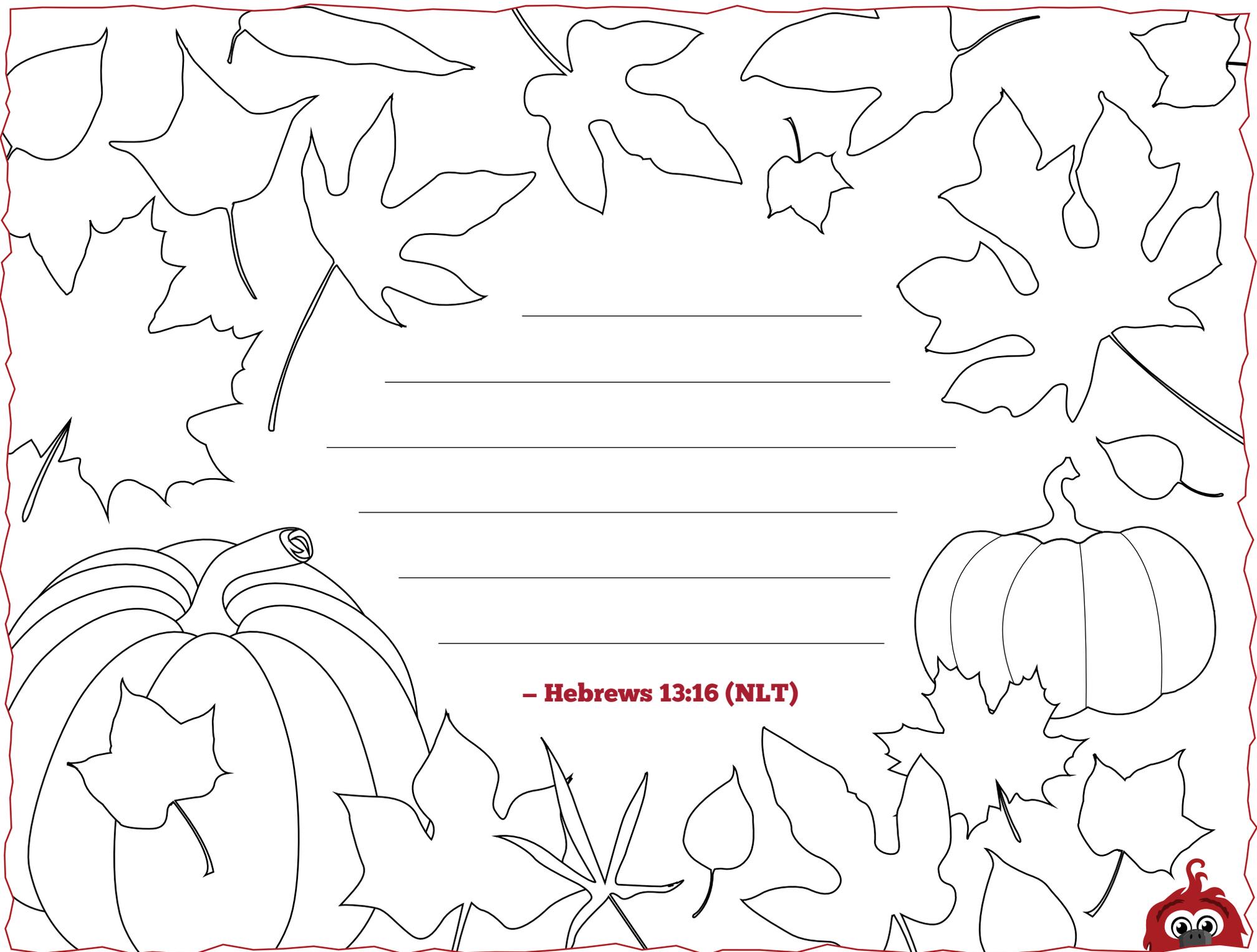
Many soldiers spend the holidays overseas without their family and friends. You can help brighten their day by sending a thoughtful note that thanks them for helping keep our country safe!



This list is only a few ways that you can be a blessing during the holidays, or during any time of the year, really. God tells us to be a blessing to others because it pleases him! And pleasing God is a wonderful thing.

To help remind us to do good and share with people, let's write out and color Hebrews 13:16. Then we can hang it somewhere (like on our fridge or bathroom mirror) to remind us to be a blessing to others, both during the holiday season and throughout the rest of the year too!





- Hebrews 13:16 (NLT)

