Gratitude is a feeling of thankfulness and appreciation.

The power of gratitude is endless!

Research shows that practicing gratitude can strengthen relationships, improve physical and emotional well-being, deepen empathy skills, and improve self-esteem.

Research also suggests that writing down or drawing what you are thankful for can actually make you happier.

Family Gratitude Mailbox Instructions

Here's a fun activity you can do at home to grow your family's culture of gratitude:

- 1. Place the gratitude mailbox in a central place in your home.
- 2. Keep blank recipe cards, pens, pencils, markers/crayons beside the mailbox.
- 3. Encourage everyone to daily write or draw something they are grateful to God for and place the card in the mailbox. (Put the flag up if it's not already.)
- 4. Set a time in your daily routine (perhaps at supper or bedtime?) where as a family you read/look at the cards Invite family members to explain more about their gratitude entry. (Why? How does this make you feel?)
- 5. Thank God when you are done.

Here are some prompts that might be helpful as over time you get creative in the use of this gratitude mailbox:

- I am grateful to God for these two things at school.
- I am grateful to God for these two things at home.
- I am grateful to God for these people in my life.
- I am grateful to God for these two things that my eyes see, or ears hear, or hands feel....
- I am grateful to God for these things that start with the letter ____.

THANK YOU, Dear God, for being with me – always and forever!