

Gratitude for Family Time

Do you have an “attitude of gratitude”? I really like that phrase...and can actually remember the first time I heard it. It was about 6 years ago, and never in a million years would you be able to guess where I was. I was being instructed on how to behave on the TV game show, *Let's Make a Deal*! Have you watched *Let's Make a Deal* lately? The host, Wayne Brady, is a true comic genius, but the show is a bit crazy.

Now, you might be asking yourself why would I ever go to Hollywood to be on *that* show. Well, we were planning a family vacation with our son, Ron. He is a fan of the show, and he wanted to go to California and see it in action! So we got tickets online, made airline reservations, and even threw in a visit to Disney Land...but the most memorable part of our vacation was the *Let's Make a Deal* experience!

And what an experience it was! For well over three hours, we were totally outside our comfort zone, but it didn't keep me from having a great time! Don and I were not only the oldest people there, but were in sharp contrast to the hopeful contestants, with their crazy costumes and absolutely wild energy and enthusiasm. Of course, that kind of behaviour is what the producers of the show were looking for!

But they were also looking for something else...an “attitude of gratitude.”

While being prepped ahead of time, all the people who would be in the audience were told to have an “attitude of gratitude”. If Wayne Brady offered us a measly \$1...we were to act happy, to have an “attitude of gratitude” and not say, “Oh, could you make it \$2?”...or else...we'd be back in our seats so fast we wouldn't know what hit us!

If we picked the wrong curtain and got “zonked”...it was ok to look sad for a second...but then we were to be happy and smile...with gratitude....thinking how great it was to be on *Let's Make a Deal* with Wayne Brady!!!

I enjoyed watching all the aspects of the production of the show. Everyone was interviewed ahead of the show, and we found out later that there were hidden cameras in our waiting room that would also help the crew select the “right” people to interact most effectively with Wayne Brady.

I was surprised at seeing the 10 extra production people, out of camera range, who were on stage between the audience and the “curtains”. The audience sure gets a different view compared to the people watching at home. Plus, what does the

audience do during the commercial breaks? To keep the energy level high, we were all standing up, dancing and singing to very lively music!

I was delighted when a couple, dressed as bananas, won a car at the end! However...the prizes aren't handed out until after the pre-recorded show airs on tv. Every winner had to sign a waiver saying that they would not tell anyone that they won something before the show aired. If the producers found out that they did (watch those social media posts!), they would forfeit their prize. Those cute, ripe bananas had to wait from October until February to receive their car and couldn't even risk telling their kids!

At the present time, in our pandemic world, far from the magic of Hollywood, I still try to have an "attitude of gratitude" and look for something every day for which to be grateful, despite being "zonked" by all the Covid restrictions.

Lately I have been grateful for happy family memories, the amazing full moon every month, the increased daylight towards evening, smiles over Zoom, seeing fox prints in the snow, watching my dog play in the snow, and watching my red amaryllis plant bloom in time for Valentine's Day.

If people can have an "attitude of gratitude" for being on a game show, they can certainly have an "attitude of gratitude" for all the good things that God provides.

Bernadette

ps—To prove it wasn't just a crazy dream, look on the next page and have a good chuckle!

