



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 27

The More You Thank God, The More You See Him in Your Life

Primary Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Key Verse: Luke 17:15, "When one of them saw that he was healed, he turned back and praised God in a loud voice."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Children in America often grow up with a sense of self-entitlement. They consider the material benefits in their life as that which is duly owed them. Not only can they take for granted all their blessings, but they also may not see God as their primary source. Our kids need a Christian worldview that teaches them all of the blessings they have in life come from God, purely out of his goodness and mercy. These blessings are not given based on our own merit or worthiness. As we live a lifestyle of thankfulness, thanking God in all circumstances, our spiritual eyes are opened so that we might better see God's daily activity in our lives. Kids need this perspective of seeing a big God because he provides for us in every little way!

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Just as Jesus healed the lepers, he offers spiritual healing through his life, death, and resurrection. Because of the gift of salvation we have access to all of the other gifts our Father gives us as well.

Jesus in us: The Bible talks much about riches in Christ. This refers to Jesus' indwelling in our lives through the power of his Holy Spirit. Jesus brings with him all the riches of the heavenly kingdom. These riches include peace and contentment, the by-product of thanksgiving itself.

Jesus through us: As we catch sight of a bigger picture of who God is and what he gives us, we are better able to witness his goodness. God will use those who are thankful to him, working through them, so that others might see the goodness of God, himself.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies needed: three boxes of different sizes – small, medium, and large with a pair of binoculars placed in the largest box.

Use the boxes as you explain the following.

Kids, do you know that sometimes we try to put God in a box? Can you imagine that?

Let's look at this small box. Sometimes we try to take God and put him in a very small box like this. This happens when we think that God is not big enough to care for us, or that he doesn't want to get to know us and be a part of our lives. We make God small in our lives when we hardly ever talk to him, or tell him how wonderful he is, or look for him to do anything special in our lives. We just might think that God is only interested in other people — or he lives in another place. This God is too small.

We might try to put God in a box like this. (Show the medium-sized box.) Now this next box is a little bit bigger, but it is still too small. When we wait to call to God until something bad happens or we need help, it is like trying to keep him in a box this size. Does he help us? Does he come? Of course he does. But if the only time he has our attention is when we sense we need him, we miss out, because he wants to be part of our lives even when things are going just fine. If you only turn to God when you are in trouble, he *may* send you trouble just so you *will* turn to him!

The third box has something very special inside of it. This box is not a box that we try to put God in at all. As a matter of fact, this is a box we open up and let God out of. We do not want to think that we can control God; instead, he controls all that is. Even better, we recognize that every good gift we have comes right from him.

Take out binoculars and say:

In this box are some binoculars. As I look around the room, I am reminded that I look every day for things that I am thankful for. The more I tell God how thankful I am, the more I see how very big he is to provide for my every care and need.

Boys and girls, let's see God as a big and awesome God. The more we worship and the more we are thankful to him, the bigger we see him and what he does in our lives. Let's worship.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Lead the children in a prayer of confession over the topic of complaining. You might have the children identify certain things they complained about this week. You could also relate from your own personal experience. Then say:

In the Bible the children of Israel complained as they wandered in the desert. God was very angry with them. He had provided them the miracle of manna and quail to feed them, and they still complained that they didn't have enough or didn't like the food. Many of them got sick.

Let's not get spiritually sick by complaining. Complaining is the opposite of giving thanks. Let's confess our sins of complaining. Let's start giving him thanks for the good things, instead of complaining about the bad.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Before children bring up their offerings say:

In many countries around the world, people worship false gods. The leader of the false god worshipers will usually tell the people that they must bring a sacrifice. The sacrifice is brought because the people are afraid of this god. They are afraid of what will happen to them if they do not obey this god. They think they must pay the god for him to give them favors.

Is that the way it is with the true and living God? Of course not. He gives us all of our gifts – Jesus, our family and friends, our health, and our money. After he gives us all of that, he invites us to give back to him. We give, not because we are afraid, and not just to get more blessings. We give because we love him and want to tell him thank you. He will use our money to help others. Explain the current mission project. When we bring money to Jesus in our offerings it goes to _____(name mission project). These people will then feel Jesus' love given to them.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Needed: a large quantity of small candies

There are two parts of this learning game.

Part 1: Give a piece of candy (or have a helper give candy) to any child who says "thank you" for any reason. Then say:

The more we say, "thank you" the more blessings we ultimately have. These blessings may not always be material, but they certainly are spiritual as we see how big God is as he works in our lives.

Part 2: This game is like the simple game of "hot or cold." Instead of using the words "hot" and "cold," to give directions, the words "thank you" and "you're welcome" will be used.

Divide the group into boys and girls. Select a boy representative and a girl representative. Ask both children to leave the room for a few minutes as each team hides their treasure, a piece of candy.

Have the treasure seekers come back into the room to begin their quest. In searching for their own team treasure, they may not ask for any clues, but they can receive input from their team members as to whether they are going in the right direction or not. When hunting the treasure, have the seeker say "thank you." If the seeker is going in the right direction his team members will say, "you're welcome" in a loud voice. If the seeker is going in the wrong direction, his team members will say, "you're welcome" in a soft voice. Teammates cannot say, "You're welcome" unless the treasure seeker first says, "thank you." The overall effect will be a chorus of "thank yous" and "you're welcomes."

After the treasures are found, conclude with the following:

The more we thank God the more we can see how he is working in our lives and guiding us to what is best for him – and best for us. That is the greatest blessing. A Bible verse that will help remind us that we are always to give thanks is, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, (GW): “Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God’s will in Christ Jesus that you do this.”

It is God’s will that in whatever happens we give him thanks. As we say “thank you” to God he leads us to the blessings he has prepared in every circumstance.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read the Bible event of Jesus healing the ten lepers in Luke 17:11-19. One option to make this event come alive is to draft ten “lepers” from the audience for an interactive presentation. Make sure they are not allergic to baby powder or do not mind having baby powder on them.

As the volunteers come forward sprinkle baby powder on their arms and pat some on their faces. Introduce the Bible reading with the following while baby powder is applied to the ten lepers:

Leprosy was a most dreaded disease, in which the skin turned white and began to rot. It was such a horrible disease that those who had it could even have their fingers and hands fall off because of rotting so badly. People were so afraid of this disease that they would not let someone who had leprosy live in town or around other people. They would make the leper live alone out in the desert or countryside. Groups of lepers would band together. If anyone came near them, they were supposed to shout out, “Unclean!” so that person would have enough time to get away.

We know that Jesus did not avoid these people. He came to earth to heal people who are unclean. The diseased people were unclean in their bodies, but all people are unclean in their spirits because of sin. Jesus wanted to heal people by going to the cross in our place so that sin would be forgiven and we would be washed pure and clean.

Read Luke 17:11-19. Have the volunteers exit as if showing themselves to the priest to see if they are clean. How many people came back? Have the kids guess before you finish that part of the story.

After you have finished the story, interview the leper who returned. Ask him if he received any more blessings than the other nine. People from the audience can help answer the question. Then say:

The truth is that this man healed of leprosy likely received the blessing of salvation as well as being saved from the terrible

disease. He recognized that Jesus was the one who healed him and that Jesus was the Messiah. The more we come back to God and are thankful, the more we realize how he heals us and helps us.

Another question that would further discussion is to ask the kids,

If you were one of the ten lepers would you be one who came back to say, “thank you?”

Most children would identify with that person. Yet, you might ask them,

When was the last time you thanked the Lord because you were healed from a hurt or scrape you received? When was the last time you thanked the Lord for your health?

Maybe it is true that it is nine times easier to forget to be thankful than to remember our blessings and thank God for them.

Application:

More Than Luck

An Interactive Story:

Use a horseshoe or rabbit's foot as a visual for this story. Holding up the horseshoe say:

Boys and girls, have you ever heard anyone say, “Wow! That was sure good luck.” Maybe you have said it, too. We often times say that it is good luck when something good happens to us. What that means is that something just happened by chance to work out for our good. Who do we, as Christians believe makes things work out for good in our lives? Is it just a matter of chance? Does it happen all by itself? Was it just good luck? No, of course not. God is in control of all things that happen.

The Bible says that God loves us so much he gave his own son for us. He handed his son over to death for us. It says in Romans 8:32 that he will also give us everything along with Jesus. It is not a question of good luck when good things happen to us. Rather, it is a good God giving us good blessings.

To help you understand this I would like you to help me tell a story. This story is called “More Than Luck.” When I come into the audience and point to you with my horseshoe, I would like you to help me finish the saying. I would like you to say the words “good luck.” This is how it will work. I will be telling the story and then I will say, “Wow! That sure was *(pointing the horse shoe)* . . .” Then you will say “good luck.”

I also have a part for the rest of the audience. I will say, “No it wasn’t.” I will point to everyone here and we will say together, “It’s a good God!” Let’s practice. “No it wasn’t.” *(Together)* **“It’s a good God!”**

Let me tell you the story. John was on his way to school with his best friend, Alex. It was a special day because on Fridays they rode their bikes together. They were pretty careful because they had to cross some very busy intersections. They usually slowed down to almost a stop to make sure it was clear before they went across. On this day it looked like the coast was clear. Alex said, “Come on, John. Let’s go.”

John said, “Wait a minute, Alex. I dropped a paper out of my backpack.”

Alex stopped, and so did John. Just then they heard the screech of tires, and a car came speeding through the intersection honking and screeching. Something must have been wrong with it because the car did not even stop but went right through the red light. Maybe its brakes had gone out.

Alex said, “Wow, John! Did you see that? If you hadn’t dropped your paper, we both would have been out in the intersection when that car came through! Wow! That sure was . . . good luck.”

But John said, “No, it wasn’t. . . *(Everyone)* **It’s a good God!**”

Alex looked at him with a puzzled face. He thought to himself: “Good God? What did God have to do with that?”

They both went on to school. When John got back his test paper in math class, Becky next to him said, “Wow! Did you ever make a good grade! You’re lucky to be so smart. Wow! That was sure . . . good luck.”

John just looked at her and smiled. “My smarts? No. It wasn’t good luck . . . *(Everyone)* **It’s a good God.**”

That afternoon John and his friend, Harris, were called to the principal’s office. Everyone thought they might be in trouble. John did not seem to be too worried though. When they got there, Mr. Lewis told them he had something special to talk to them about. They were two of the students chosen by the teachers to represent the school in a special writing contest. Mr. Lewis said, “John and Harris, this is a great honor. I am sure you know you both are very lucky to get it.”

“Yes,” Harris said. “That sure was . . . good luck.”

“Thank you very much,” said John, “but it wasn’t good luck. . . It’s a good God!”

School was almost ready to let out. John and his friends were reminded why Friday was so special. It was the day they play their weekly soccer game. The boys were talking about the game when they heard rain pattering against the window. As they peered through the window their hearts sank. The rain was coming down in sheets. Surely, there could be no game now.

Alex was standing next to John. He was disappointed just like John was. “Wow,” Alex said. “This is sure not . . . good luck.”

John said, “No, it does not have anything to do with luck. Instead, . . . it’s a good God!”

Alex thought to himself, “That doesn’t make any sense at all. How could having a soccer game get rained out not be bad luck? How could Alex still say that it is a good God who can be behind this?”

John did not explain himself. He went home as usual. He was saddened that there was no game. He knew, though, that there was no such thing as luck. God was in control. As long as he was ready to thank God in every circumstance, he would find how God has a blessing in every circumstance. He remembered the Bible lesson from Sunday that said to give thanks in all things. He did not feel like giving thanks for a rained-out soccer game, but he said thank you to God anyway. He said, “I can’t tell how it is that you can use us for a blessing, but I trust that you can. I give you thanks in advance.”

After he finished dinner with his family, the rain finally let up. The soccer game had been missed, and he was still disappointed. His dad looked outside and said, “John, since we don’t have a soccer game to go to tonight, what do you say you and I go fishing.”

“Wow! What a great idea,” he said.

They headed out the door and went down to their favorite lake. On that night, since it had just rained, the fish were hungry and biting. They caught eight large fish. As they were driving home, John talked to his dad about how this was even better than a soccer game. He then said a quiet prayer in his heart. “Dear God, sometimes it is hard for me to be thankful. Maybe it is just because I can’t see far enough ahead. I didn’t feel like being thankful when the soccer game was canceled. This is so much better, though. Thank you very much.”



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Have the kids come forward to pray a list of thanksgivings. Invite them to think about how big God is as they pray for thankfulness for these special things. The following list of categories might help the kids expand their view of the things they might give thanks for to God. Thank God for:

- His creation power.
- His power to take care of all things.
- His power of forgiveness through the death of Jesus Christ.
- The power to live a new life because Jesus is alive.
- The power to be victorious because Jesus ascended into heaven.
- The gifts that God has given us in our families, in our friends, in our schools, in our country.
- The gift of food.
- The gift of education.
- The gifts that God has given us through our problems, so that we can trust him more.
- The gifts that God has given us in our heart and spirit.
- The gift of being able to love people and to be patient.
- The gifts that we can use to help others come to meet Jesus.
- The gifts of our church that helps us grow spiritually.
- The gift of protection from the enemy.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- three boxes of different sizes – small, medium, and large
- binoculars

Learning Game:

- penny candy

Learning Event:

- baby powder
- horseshoe or rabbit's foot