



Date: _____
Series: Thanksgiving
Fall Year 2, Lesson 27

Give Thanks for Everything

Take Home Point: *Give thanks to God for everything.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Psalm 136:1-4, 23-26, Give thanks to the Lord because his mercy endures forever.

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:20, "Always thank God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We will help kids know:

- They need to thank God for all of his blessings, both large and small.
- They may have overlooked or taken for granted some blessings.
- That Jesus is the greatest gift for which to be thankful, and through him we can be thankful for all we have.




We will help kids feel:

- Appreciative of all their blessings.
- Startled at the large number of reasons they have to be thankful.

We will help kids do:

- Compile a list of their thanksgivings.
- Associate their personal thanksgivings with certain, randomly selected letters.
- Make a group crossword puzzle filled with all of the group's thanksgivings while they are said in prayer.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION | PAGE # | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY | SUPPLIES NEEDED |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|
| Small Group Warm-Up  | 3 | Kids are given alphabet cereal to snack on while matching single letters to word beginnings that describe some of their thanksgivings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alphabet cereal |
| Large Group  | 3 6 7 7 | Overview Quizmo, the Word Quiz Master , leads kids in a game encouraging them to think deeply about their thanksgivings. Responsive Bible Reading: Kids will respond to verses from Psalm 136 about giving thanks. Teaching Point: The presenter helps kids create an image of what God must look like when we acknowledge his gifts and are thankful for them. | <i>Costume:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alphabet jacket and hat <i>Props:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easel or chalkboard for scoring • contestant table • two stacks of cards: one stack of letters; the other of categories (p. 9-13) |
| Small Group Application  | 4 | Students will discuss ways to give thanks and incorporate things for which they are thankful into a group crossword puzzle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different colored markers • poster board |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

Supplies: Alphabet cereal

Place a large bowl of cereal in the middle of the group. Invite kids to take some and begin munching. When called upon, they will have to hold up the letter they have in their hand, tell what letter it is, and what they are thankful for that begins with that letter. Let all kids share their thoughts and thanks.

Afterwards, continue with this discussion.

Which of these special gifts from God can you live without?

Which gifts can you not live without?

If you were to rate yourself as being thankful on a scale from one to ten, how thankful are you for the little things? How thankful are you for the big things?

On that same scale, how do you think others would rank you on how thankful you *appear to be* for both the big and little things?

Today we remember to be thankful for both the little things and the big things as we **give thanks to God for everything.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Quizmo, the Word Quiz Master, leads kids in a game encouraging them to think deeply about their thanksgivings.

Responsive Bible Reading: Kids will respond to verses from Psalm 136 about giving thanks.

Teaching Point: The presenter helps kids create an image of what God must look like when we acknowledge his gifts and are thankful for them.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Read Psalm 100, Psalm 105:1-2 and Psalm 107:21-22.

Have kids list as many ways as the passages suggest to thank God for what he has done. (*Shout happily to the Lord, serve the Lord cheerfully, come into his presence with a joyful song or a song of thanksgiving, praise his name, call on him, make known what he has done, sing to him, make music to praise him, meditate on all the miracles he has performed*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How do you think God feels when we thank him in the ways mentioned? Do you think God has a favorite way of being thanked?

What is one way you like to offer thanks to God?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: One marker in a different color for each student so they can see the interesting pattern of each person's thankfulness. Poster board (with one inch grid lines, if possible).

The key verse for today from Ephesians 5:20 says, "Always thank God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We are going to make a Thanks Crossword Puzzle as a way of giving thanks today. Listen carefully to how we will do this.

I'm going to start by writing one word across the poster board right in the middle. My letters are only about an inch big because we might

be able to fill up the whole poster board. As I write this, I'm going to say, "Lord, I thank you for.... family (for example)."

Then the next person will think of, and write another word that intersects with the first word. As each person writes a word, he/she will say it as a prayer in the same way that I did, "Lord, I thank you for _____." The challenge for you is to really think about something you are genuinely thankful for as you write these intersecting words.

We're going to go around the group, person by person, to see how much of this poster board we can fill up with words that describe something we are thankful for and how full of thanks our hearts can truly be.

Note: It's important that the kids not just mention something that they're thankful for but rather are thanking God for that thing. So when they are writing, have them say: "God, I thank you for... (Jessica, soccer, dancing, mom, dad, birthdays, etc.)"

Conclude by restating the take home point: ****give thanks to God for everything.***

Closing Prayer:

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Thanksgiving

Costume:

- *a few cards with letters on them that are attached to the Quiz Master's clothes and his/her hat.*

Props:

- *an easel or chalkboard must be available for scoring and an adult volunteer chosen to record the letters won*
- *a table or line on the floor*
- *two stacks of cards. One stack of 26 cards has a single, different letter of the alphabet on each card. The other stack has categories that will be drawn and combined with a letter card.*

Introduction: "Word Quiz Master"

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our word quiz show today! I am Quizmo, the Word Quiz Master! In order to begin our challenge today, we need two teams. So, let's have the girls compete against the boys.

In advance, choose three students from each team to come forward. Stand behind the table and face the audience. Place the decks of cards in the center of the table. Have each team line up in a row on either end of the table so that the first contestant from each team is facing each other.

Turn over a card from the category deck and read the card out loud. Then turn over a card from the letter deck. The first contestant to give an answer to the category that begins with the letter turned over earns that letter for his/her team. The adult helper will write the letter on the easel under the name of the team that won it. The object of the game is for each team to win as many letters as possible.

When finished with each round, the contestant that answered (and tried to answer) go tag another contestant from the audience who goes to the end of the line.

Turn the cards over in two discard piles. They can be shuffled and used again when there are no more cards in the draw pile. Game continues for as long as you determine.

At the end of the game, have the teams try and make a word from the letters won of something for which to be thankful. This could be used as bonus points.

At the end of the game, have all contestants return to their seats.

Responsive Bible Reading

Why did we play this game? Sure, it made you think, didn't it? That's good exercise for your noodle. But another very important factor is that it forces all of us to think deeply about God's gifts to us. Doing this is called "thanksgiving" because it means that we recognize and acknowledge the good things we have and the ways people help us. We don't need a great majority of the things we have, and there are many people in the world living with much less.

Let's take a look at what the Bible has to say about thanksgiving. I am going to say a line from Psalm 136, and you respond the same way after each. Your line is: "because his mercy endures forever." Let's practice your line. One...two...three... "because his mercy endures forever." Good, now let's begin.

Psalm 136:1-4

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good,
because his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods
because his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords
because his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the only one who does miraculous things—
because his mercy endures forever.

Psalm 136:23-26

He remembered us when we were humiliated—
because his mercy endures forever.
He snatched us from the grasp of our enemies—
because his mercy endures forever.
He gives food to every living creature—
because his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven
because his mercy endures forever.

Teaching Point

The game we played today sure wasn't an easy challenge, was it? But people do appreciate it when we tell them ways we are thankful for them.

God is the same way. He delights in us thanking him for the gifts he has given to us.

Ephesians 5:20 says, “*Always thank God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Today I have a challenge for you. Try to surprise someone by thanking him or her for something they’ve done for you. Remember their reaction. I’m sure it will be a good one. Think of God reacting this way when you **give thanks to God for everything.*

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for this time to have fun and learn about your word together. Help us to surprise the people in our lives by thanking them for helping us, giving us things, and loving us. Give us the power to remember them often and continue giving thanks on a regular basis so it becomes a natural habit. Also, may we regularly pray our thanksgivings to you in a way that shows how deeply we love and appreciate your gifts. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Appendix A: Categories

Photocopy on cardstock. Shuffle regularly to ensure spontaneity.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Something that you eat for which you are thankful. | A place for which you are thankful. | A challenge or hard time that turned out to be a blessing. | A time you are thankful because you were forgiven. |
| Something about God for which you are thankful. | You are thankful for something you feel in your heart. | You are thankful for something about a friend. | A person for whom you are thankful. |
| An activity at school for which you thankful. | A way that God helped you with your daily provisions. | A way that God helped you spiritually with your relationships with others. | Someone in your church for whom you are thankful. |

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|---|--|--|--|
| <p>For what about church are you thankful?</p> | | | |
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Appendix B: Alphabet

Photocopy on cardstock. Shuffle regularly to ensure spontaneity.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A | B | C | D |
| E | F | G | H |
| I | J | K | L |

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| M | N | O | P |
| Q | R | S | T |
| U | V | W | X |

| | | | |
|----------|----------|--|--|
| Y | Z | | |
|----------|----------|--|--|