

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: Thankfulness is an attitude that comes from knowing that God is good.

Key Question: What does a thankful attitude look like?

Memory Verse: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name. Psalm 100:4

Overview: We are doing a special Thanksgiving edition today. When we think about Thanksgiving, we picture turkey and lots of food, family, and football. It's a great holiday that encourages us to be thankful. But, did you know that the whole idea of being thankful doesn't come from the Thanksgiving holiday? It comes from the Bible. Thankfulness was God's idea. He wants us to always be thankful. Everything we have is a gift from Him. When we understand just how generous God has been, we can have the right attitude toward life. Instead of focusing on silly stuff like the toys we wish we had or think we deserve, we can focus on being thankful for what God has already given us. Being thankful is one of the best ways you can worship God. You can say it in a prayer, sing it in a song, or just show it by how you act.

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** What's your favorite thing to eat at Thanksgiving dinner? What's your least favorite thing to eat? What are your family traditions for this holiday?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Draw the bubbles on a whiteboard and fill in the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question. (2nd-5th graders can complete in Activity Page #1.)
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher's Guide and then answer the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [Philippians 4:6-7](#). What do you do when you're anxious or worried about something? How does a thankful heart help you worry less?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - What will you do to work on thankfulness this week?
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

Allow each kid to share. The point: Spend time focusing on the special holiday of Thanksgiving.

Answer: A heart that can be happy no matter what because God takes care of all your needs. God loves you even more than your parents! That means He loves you a lot! He knows exactly what you need and He promises to take care of you. But, remember, that doesn't mean you always get what you want.

Bonus Questions: What is something you're thankful for? What's the difference between needing something and wanting something?

The Bible says we don't have to worry because God is in control. God already knows the answer. He wants you to stop worrying and come to Him in prayer. When we do that, He will lead us down the right path. A thankful heart reminds us of what God has already done for us and that we can trust Him for our future, too.

Allow each kid to share. Encourage them to think of a way they can work on being thankful. (saying thanks more, appreciating what they already have, telling God thanks everyday for something)

Option #1

I'm Thankful Pumpkin

Create a pumpkin full of reasons to be thankful. Print the "I'm Thankful For" template (page 5) on orange paper. Make enough for each kid to have 8 strips. Have the kids cut out the strips. Print the leaf template (page 6) onto green paper, precut. Each kid needs one. As a class, come up with things the kids are thankful for and write them on the whiteboard. Have the kids fill in their things on their orange strips. Then, have the kids staple together the 8 strips, start with one end and staple. Make sure to fan them out so they aren't all on top of each other. Then pull the other ends together and staple again. This creates the pumpkin shape. (see picture below). Then, have the kids write their name on their leaf and staple or tape the leaf to the top of the pumpkin.



Supplies needed

- I am thankful for template (p 5), 8 per kid.
- leaf template (p6), pre-cut. 1 per kid.
- orange paper
- green paper
- staplers
- tape
- markers/pens
- scissors

Bonus Activity:

Play Find the Book in the Bible

Divide class into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have kids race to find the book of **Psalms**. Then have them look for the book of **Matthew**. If you have time, come up with other books for them to find.

Option #2

I'm Thankful Paper Plate Pie

A fun craft to remind kids of the things they're thankful for. Give each kid a "I'm thankful for..." pie template (page 7), printed on orange paper. Make sure the kids cut out the triangle from the circle also. Give each kid a paper plate that has already been divided into 4 sections. As a class, come up with reasons why the kids are thankful. Write them on the whiteboard. Have kids choose 4 they want to write down and have them fill in one for each section on their plate. Then, have the kids put the pie template (page 7) on top of the plate. Give each kid a brad to push through the top of the pie and plate. Have the kids decorate the outside ring of the plate if you have time.



Supplies needed

- paper plates, draw two lines (down and across) dividing plate into 4 sections.
- brads
- pie template (p 7), 1 per kid.
- orange paper
- scissors
- markers/pens
- crayons

Bonus Activity:

Play Find the Book in the Bible

Divide class into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have kids race to find the book of **Proverbs**. Then have them look for the book of **John**. If you have time, come up with other books for them to find.

Watch the lesson video and fill in the blanks.

Find videos and other helpful resources for this lesson @ pursueGOD.org/psalms-kids.

1. God doesn't want us to be _____.
2. You can't be thankful if you only _____.
3. Thankfulness is an _____ that comes from knowing that _____.
4. When we're at church, we should sing with _____.

Share with one another as you answer these questions.

Check out the lesson resource tabs online for helpful articles and videos.

1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how grumpy are you? What rating would your parents give you?
2. Why do you get grumpy? Why does grumpiness keep you from being thankful?
3. Make a list of things you are thankful for. Why does God deserve the credit for all that we have?
4. Read [Philippians 4:6-7](#). What do you do when you're anxious or worried? How does a thankful heart help you worry less?

Memorize this verse today and during the week.

Don't forget to pray as a family this week!

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Psalm 100:4

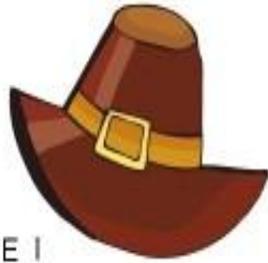
Answer Key: 1. grumpy 2. focus on yourself 3. attitude, God is good 4. thankfulness

Learn the 3 basic truths of the Christian faith @ pursueGOD.org/foundations-kids



PUZZLE #1

**Thanksgiving
Word Search**



FEASTCEI
HKMPUVFN
TZRBREAD
HAUFKOLI
APPLEWLA
NEIXYQTN
KYSONLGS
SDJCORNB



- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. Apple | 5. Feast |
| 2. Bread | 6. Indians |
| 3. Corn | 7. Thanks |
| 4. Fall | 8. Turkey |

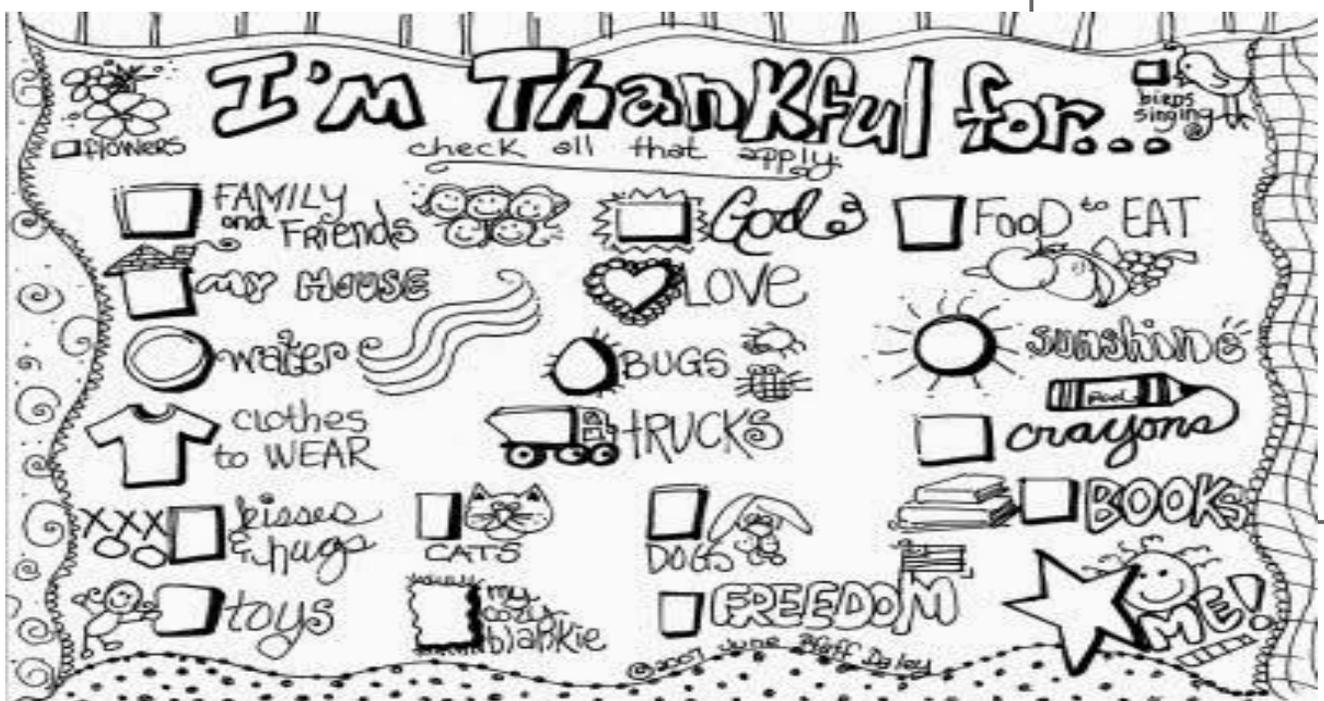


BIG IDEA:

MEMORY VERSE:

KEY QUESTION:

COLOR



I AM THANKFUL FOR

