

Special Thanksgiving Sunday School Lesson November 22, 2020



Sunday School Group Time:

Gather the Children and Teach the Unit Bible Verse.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1

Lead a Conversation about Saying “Thank You” to God.

God is so good!!! God is so good to us. He made us. He loves us. He gives us many good things to enjoy. In the Bible, James 1:17 says, “every good and perfect gift comes from God.” What are some of the good gifts God gives us? (Guide the children to answer. You may want to toss a small ball to each child who wants to answer. Answers may include: food, home, family, friends, healthy bodies, Jesus, church, Bible, etc.)

This week we celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a wonderful time to say “thank you” to God for all the good things He has made and given us to enjoy. We can say “thank you” to God by praising Him! We praise Him with words when we pray and talk to Him. We can say, “Dear God, You are so good! Thank you for loving me. Thank you for giving me a family to care for me and food to eat. Thank you, God, for Jesus! I love you. Amen.”

We can also praise God with music, songs, and dancing. I want to tell you a Bible story about a man who praised God to say thank you.

Tell the Bible Story.

David Praises God *(1 Samuel 16:14-23, Psalm 23)*

David loved God and was thankful to God for loving him and caring for him. When David was a young boy, he was a shepherd- he took care of his family's sheep. David spent much time out in the fields with the sheep. He used that time to talk to God and to praise God. David played music on a harp and sang songs to praise God. David also wrote songs of praise to God. Some of David's songs are in the Bible.

David wrote a song about how God loves us and cares for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep. "God is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need. He gives me good food and water. He shows me the right way to go. Even when I'm scared, I know He is with me and is taking care of me. God fills my life with good things, and I know I'll live forever with Him."

God loved it when David praised Him and thanked Him.

Apply the Story.

Just like David, we can praise and thank God for making us, loving us, caring for us, and giving us good things to enjoy. Let's say a prayer of thanks to God right now. Then we can praise Him with music, singing, and dancing.

Close in Prayer.

Praise God with Music.

Lead the children in singing and dancing to some of their favorite praise songs. You may also play one or more of the Thanksgiving songs on your Fall 2014 CD: "God, We Thank You;" "The Thank You Song;" or "God is Good to Me."

Sunday School Learning Activities:

Special Thanksgiving Craft: Thankful Heart Magnet

A thankful heart is a happy heart! Give each child a tan cardstock circle and a craft kit. Guide each child to peel and stick the leaf sticker to the circle. Next, they should add the “Enter with a thankful heart” sticker so that it is on top of the leaf stickers. Then, they can add the acorn stickers. Finally, write each child’s name on the blank heart sticker and place it and a magnet strip to the back of the tan circle.

Praise Parade:

Pass out the instruments (in your SS cabinet) and play music on your CD player. Let the children play the instruments, sing along, and march around the room thank God with a praise parade.

Thanksgiving Meal:

Children may play in the homeliving center pretending to prepare and eat a special thanksgiving meal. Don’t forget to say a prayer of thanks to God before eating! Use this time to ask the children who they will share their thanksgiving meal with and encourage them to tell their family that they are thankful for them.

Collage of Thanks:

Show the children the provided banner that says “Thank You, God, For...” Help each child trace his hand on the banner and write one thing he is thankful for on his hand. Write each child’s name near their handprint.

“If You’re Thankful” Game:

Gather the children in a circle. Say, “We have many things to thank God for. If you’re thankful for your family, clap your hands.” (children clap). “If you’re thankful for Jesus, jump up and down.” (children jump.) Continue playing- naming additional things children are thankful for and simple movements. BONUS: While gathered, you could also sing “If You’re Happy and You Know it,” exchanging “thankful” for “happy.”