

Lesson 4: I Should Be Thankful Too!

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Discuss reasons to be thankful to God and determine that we should give thanks to God
- 2) Draw pictures of things we are thankful for
- 3) Discuss verses in the Bible that show the need to be thankful

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template from previous week)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Verse Activity Sheets –one set per child
- Fruit of My Lips Being Thankful Drawing Sheet (one per child)
- Chalkboard or Easel to write down ideas for all to see
- Color page: Daniel is thankful (one per child)

Optional

- Ball (being thankful - pass the ball game) – one for class to share
- Snack: Fruit of our lips.
 - Fruit slices (Strawberries, bananas, pears, etc.) 5 per child
 - Napkins for snack one per child
 - Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

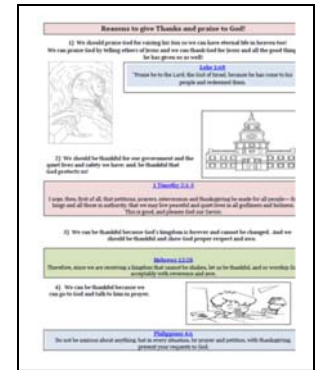
Take attendance and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Once children are seated say, **“We have been talking about God – can anyone raise their hand and tell me what we learned so far about God?”** Have children raise hands and answer – God is love, He loves us, He does good things for us because He loves us. God is worthy of praise and it makes Him happy when we praise or give glory to Him.

Last week we learned that God is worthy of praise. We learned that we need to praise or give glory to God to thank him for all He does for us. God says we should praise Him and we learned how to praise Him, by singing songs, going to church services, telling others about Him, etc. But why should we praise him? This week we are going to learn that we should be thankful to God because of all He has done for us! Can anyone raise their hand and tell me what does it mean to be thankful? (Allow children to raise hands, choose someone who is sitting quiet. Thank them for sitting quietly and allow them to answer. Answers may include: to be grateful, do something nice because someone is nice to you; like making a card, to appreciate what someone has done for them, etc.) **To be thankful means to express your gratitude or thanks. To appreciate what someone has done for them.**

2) Reasons to Thank God Verses and Color Page Activity

15-20 minutes

Hand out the activity pages – one set to each child along with pencil crayons. Ask them to write their name on the front page and tell them they are going to learn of reasons why they should be thankful. **“As a class we are going to read through each verse and see why we should be thankful to God! After some of the verses we will color the picture that will help us remember why we should be thankful. Let’s get started, can I ask for someone to raise their hand and read the first verse? (Ask for volunteers to read each verse, allow time to color pictures and make sure to ask the question after each verse: **What does this verse say about being thankful?**)**



Answer questions if there are any. If too big or difficult tell them you will think about it and get back to them. Then ask the coordinator or someone you trust in the church for help for the answer and get back to them next week. After kids are finished help them to clean up.

3) Optional: Choose a Way to be Thankful Ball Pass Game

5-10 minutes

Get a ball. Have kids sit in a circle on the floor or around the table so that if a ball is rolled to them, they can catch it easily.

Say to them, **“We are going to take turns rolling the ball to someone, you can only roll the ball to the same person once, so that way everyone gets a turn. When you get the ball, you need to say a reason you are thankful to God for something. It could be something about the weather, family, friends, pets, and sports, whatever you are thankful for. We will try to make sure everyone gets a turn and then if there is time we will go around again.**

Remember to roll the ball gently! (Praise children as they come up with nice things to be thankful for, encourage or give ideas to children who have difficulty coming up with ideas.)

When finished have them sit back in their regular spots and move on to the next activity.

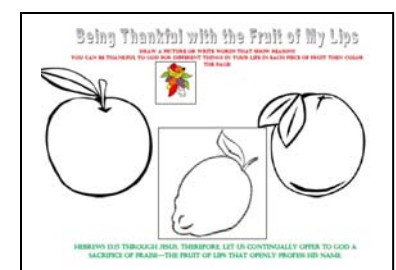
4) Draw Reasons I Can Be Thankful

10-15 minutes

Hand out the sheet of paper titled, “Fruit of My Lips” to each child. Have them write their names somewhere on the page and hand out pencil crayons or markers.

Explain to the children, **“There are many reasons why we should thank God and be grateful. Now on our own we are going to come up with reasons why we can be thankful to God – maybe you are thankful for your good health, maybe you are thankful**

for your mom or dad, maybe you are thankful for your friend, maybe you are thankful for the seasons! Either by drawing a picture or writing down words in each piece of fruit, show reasons why you are thankful to God! If you have any questions or need help raise your hands. Remember:



Hebrews 13:15 says,

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

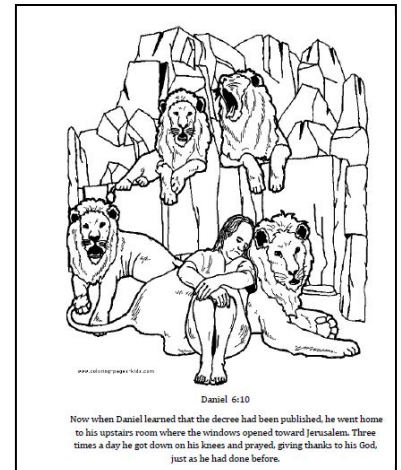
By telling others and God about why we are thankful and by giving praise to God we are making God happy!

Read the instructions on the page as they start coloring, and read the verse at the bottom reminding them that just like a tree produces fruit, our mouths should produce good things as well like thanksgiving to God! As kids color or write, go around the room helping them come up with ideas if needed. When finished have kids clean up markers and papers before moving on.

5) Learn of Daniel who was thankful even in times of trouble

5-15 minutes

Read the story of Daniel being faithful to God and thankful, even when he knew it would get him in trouble! **Now, we are going to read the story of Daniel. He was a God-fearing man. He loved God and prayed to God even when others said he couldn't because if he did he would be punished! With all this trouble, Daniel kept praying and gave thanks to God. This story will help us remember to give thanks to God no matter what is happening around us because God loves us and will keep us safe – a great reason to be thankful! Let's all turn to our Bibles and read Daniel Chapter 6.**



After reading the story, hand out the Daniel and the Lion's Den color page and crayons. Or, if you have small children, hand out the color page to them so they can start coloring while you read the story. Have children write their names on the top of the page and as they color help them come up with reasons why Daniel was thankful even when he was facing trouble.

6) Optional – Snack: Fruit of lips that praise God!

5 minutes

Hand out some fruit slices to each child. Also hand out a glass of water or juice and napkin. Remind children to clean up after themselves with the napkin making sure their cups and garbage are put in the garbage and that they clean up any crumbs from the table before going on to the next activity. While they are eating review what they learned; **“God is worthy of praise from the - fruit of our lips - Hebrews 13:15. The words that come out of our mouth should praise God and these fruits remind us that our words should be wholesome, sweet, and pure! Hebrews 13:15 says, “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.” We should be thankful to God!”**

7) Close in prayer

Thank you God for all that you do for us. For giving us homes, families, friends, pets, and people at church that love us and care for us. Thank you for the seasons, the earth, the fun we can have swimming in the water you made, playing in the leaves you make in the fall, and having fun in the snow you created. Thank you for loving us and sending your Son to show us how we can live our lives making You happy and in turn making us happy as well. Thank you for giving us the hope of heaven and one day being with You and seeing You face to face! Thank you for everything God! It is in your precious Son's name that we pray this, Amen.

8) Optional: Songs

Sing Thank you Lord for loving me. Lyrics are written below.

Thank You, Lord

By: Gary L Mabry

Thank You, Lord, for loving me.
Thank You, Lord, for blessing me.
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole.
And saving my soul.

Chorus

Thank You, Lord, for loving me.
Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul.

Let us all with one accord
Sing praises to Christ the Lord.
Let us all unite in song
To praise Him all day long.

Please reveal your will for me
So I can serve You for eternity.
Use my life in every way,
Take hold of it today.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!