

Preschool Winter
Lesson 7:
We Thank God for Jesus

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Recognize the importance of Jesus' birth and that He is the greatest gift ever given **Luke 2:22-38**
- 2) Do activities to reinforce the idea that Jesus is the Son of God and God is worthy to be praised because of Jesus!
- 3) See the need to worship Jesus today at church services and praise God just like Simeon and Anna did

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for Ideas

Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Charts -from previous class - one per student
- We Thank God for Jesus Badge - one per student cut out before class
- We Thank God Stickers - one set per student, 18 sets on a page - cut out before class for activity
- String - enough to tie loosely around each students neck with a bow - one "necklace" per student
- Glue sticks to share
- Hole Punch to share (or if unavailable use scissors but only let an adult "punch" the holes)
- Scissors - to cut out stickers before class
- We Thank God for Jesus Banner Template - 1 per student - one sheet makes 4 banners
- Drinking Straw or Craft Stick - 12-16 inches long - one per student to use as the banner stick
- Tape to share
- Stickers - letter stickers or heart, bible, or prayer stickers to use to decorate banners - to share

Depending on time choose some optional activities to do and gather supplies

- Jesus is God's Son Booklet - print one sheet per student, cut out book pages before class
- Scissors to cut out book pages from booklet sheet
- Stapler
- Bibles - one per child
- Snack - Triangle Shaped Cheese and Pretzel Sticks (Mini-Banners) - enough for each student to have some along with glass of water and napkin

1) Introduction to lesson:

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance charts from previous class). Let each child color a star in their attendance chart for this week, if a new child arrives put their name on a chart for them and let them color in a star.

Tell them, "**Last week we talked about two special people that when they saw Jesus they thanked God because they knew how special Jesus is. Can someone raise their hand and tell us what their names were?**" Let student answer - Simeon and Anna

That's right _____ (insert name of child) Simeon and Anna thanked God for Jesus. Does that make God happy when we thank Him? Raise your hand if you know.... Let student answer.

That's right _____ (insert name of child) Yes, it makes God very happy when we thank Him and worship Him!

Today we are going to talk about worship as we continue learning about little Jesus. When we worship God and Jesus, we tell or show them how wonderful we know they are. We sing, we pray, we listen to the Bible and we give when we worship at Sunday worship. That makes God and Jesus happy. This is a way to say thank you to God and Jesus.

Let's all say: "Thank you God for Jesus Your Son" (Help students repeat)

Let's sing some songs to get us started!

If My Name is.....

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

Jesus is my friend, Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

God is Great

Tune: London Bridge

God made all the stars above*, stars above*, stars above*.

God made all the stars above*.

God is great.

(*lands and seas, fish and whales, dogs and cats)

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.

Here is link to hear song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFz2yiYoKEM>

Hand out one Bible to each child. Say to students. **The Bible is VERY special. Do you know why? Because it is God's! God made the Bible for us and the Bible has all of God's Words in it for us to obey. Isn't that wonderful? God made the Bible for each and every one of us! God loves us very much and wanted each one of us to have a Bible to read, to use and to study His wonderful words. Today we are going to continue to learn from the Bible about how special Jesus is!**

Let's all say "Thank you God for Jesus!" Have students say it together. **Good job!**

Who can raise their hand quietly and tell me what they remember about Jesus being born?

_____(insert child's name) **is sitting quietly and has raised his/her hand – what do you remember about Jesus' birth?** Let student respond. Help if needed with the following prompts:

Remember we talked about Mary and Joseph who heard from an angel that Mary was going to have a son – the Son of God and that they were to name him Jesus? Remember that Jesus was born in an unusual place? Where was he born? Where was his bed? Who came to see him after angels told them about his birth? Were the shepherds happy to see Jesus? Who came to visit him afterwards? What did they bring for little Jesus? How did they find Jesus?

Good job everyone for trying to remember what we have learned so far about Jesus!

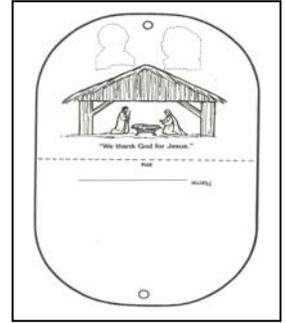
2) We Thank God for Jesus Badge

10-15 minutes

***Before class:** Cut out one badge per student – there is one on each page. Print and cut out one set of stickers for each student from the sticker sheet – there are 18 sets of stickers on the page.

Gather crayons, stickers, glue sticks, badges, string, and scissors.

During class: Say, **Today we are going to talk about the importance of thanking God for Jesus – just like Simeon and Anna did when they saw Jesus. We need to remember to say thank you too! To help us we are going to make a badge that we can wear around our necks. This badge will remind us to be thankful to God for Jesus!**



Hand out one badge to each student and encourage them to color the picture of Mary, Jesus and Joseph. Read the words on the badge and help students write their name on the badge as well.

When done, fold the badge and help students glue their stickers in the right spots.

Next, take some string and pull it through the holes on the badge which you will need to hole punch or carefully use a pair of scissors to pop a hole through the holes marked on the badge. Tie the string loosely around each student's neck with the badge at their chest level. Tie a loose bow at the back so that students can easily remove the necklace badge when they feel like it by lifting it over their heads.

Help students finish craft and encourage them to clean up before moving on.

Remind them that this craft reminds us that we need to thank God for Jesus.

Practice saying **"Thank you God for Jesus!"** with students.

Thank those students who choose to help and praise them for helping to encourage other students to want to help as well. Sing the following while you clean up.

Clean Up Song
Clean up, clean up
Everybody everywhere!
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share!
Repeat

A Helper I Will Be!
Tune: Farmer in the Dell

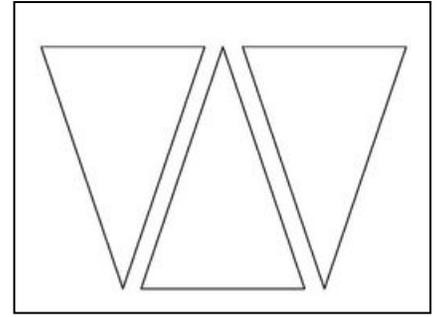
A helper I will be, a helper I will be.
There's work to do, there's work to do
In my family.

I love to help my mom; I love to help my dad.
I love to help; it makes God glad.
A helper I will be.

3) We Thank God for Jesus Banners

10-15 minutes

Before Class: Cut out one banner flag per student on template page and gather drinking straws or long craft sticks, stickers to decorate, crayons, and tape.



During Class: Ask students:

What we have been talking about today? Remembering to thank God for Jesus.

When are times we should thank God? Should we thank God before we go to bed? Yes

Should we thank God when we pray for our food? Yes

Should we thank God for Jesus when we play? Yes

Should we thank God for Jesus when we come to church services? Yes

That's right - we can thank God all the time for Jesus because Jesus is the Son of God and we are happy and blessed to have Jesus in our lives to help us, guide us and love us!

To help us to remember to thank God all the time - we are going to make a banner flag to carry with us and to put in our room to remind us to thank God for Jesus!

Hand out one banner flag to each child, help them to color it and put stickers on it. They can draw a picture of things to be thankful for like the birth of Jesus....If you are able write the words "Thank You God" on the banner flag.

When students are finished, take the straw or stick and tape the shortest side of the triangle to the tape so that it looks like a flag with the stick hanging lower so students can hold onto the stick and wave their banner flag.

Ask students to help clean up before moving onto the next activity.

4) Action Rhyme and Songs

5 minutes

Let's do some action rhymes about the Bible!

Action Rhyme - Here is the Bible

Here is the Bible (hold hands out with palms together like a book)

Let's open it wide (hold hands like an open book)

God speaks to us (point upward)

On the pages inside (hold hands like an open book)

Big Enough Song

Tune: London Bridge

I am glad I'm big enough,

Big enough, big enough,

Big enough to come to church; Just like Jesus!

Action Play - The Bible Says

The Bible says, "Pray" I will obey.

(Fold hands and bow head)

The Bible says, "Listen" I will obey.

(Cup hand to ear)

The Bible says, "Give" I will obey.

(Pretend to drop money in basket)

The Bible says, "Go to church" I will obey.

(Walk fingers along arm or step feet up and down)

The Bible says, "Sing" I will obey.

God is Happy

Tune: Are You Sleeping?

God is happy. God is happy.
When we do right.
When we do right.
God is very happy.
God is very happy.
When we do right.
When we do right.

Repeat tune instead of “when we do right” fill in with different lines:

When we learn what’s right
When we pray
When we worship Him
When we sing
When we give
When we obey

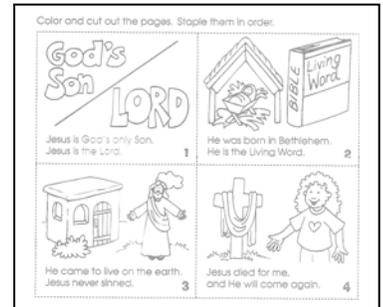
5) Optional: Jesus is God’s Son Booklet

10-15 minutes

Before Class: Print booklet – one per student and either cut it out before class or during class. Gather crayons, stapler and scissors.

During Class:

Read through each page of the book showing students as you read. When done, hand one booklet already cut out – or give them each a sheet and then cut out later. Hand out crayons as well and get them to color each “page” of the booklet. When finished staple the pages in order from 1-4 to make a booklet. Read the book again while students finish coloring and then ask students to help clean up before moving onto the next activity.



6) Optional: Jesus Says – Action Game

5 minutes

Line the students up in a row so that they can all see you and have enough space to move their hands and feet without hitting anyone beside them.

Say to the students: **We are going to play a game about listening to Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is very special and we need to obey and follow Him as well as thank God for Him. I want you to follow and do what I say. When I say, “Jesus says”, I want you to do what He would tell you to, ok?”** The idea is you ask the students to do different things that would show honor to Jesus.

Ready? Everyone quiet and listen.....good job...

Here are some ideas to get started, you can add your own as well.

- Jesus says go to church services (pretend to go to church services)
- Jesus says put your toys away (pretend to clean)
- Jesus says go to bed (lay down and pretend to fall asleep)
- Jesus says help your mother (act like they are helping mom with something)
- Jesus says say your prayers (practice saying prayers)
- Jesus says eat your supper before desert (pretend to eat)
- Jesus says obey your parents (pretend to listen to parents)
- Jesus says give a hug (pretend to hug)
- Jesus says - say thank you (say thank you)
- Jesus says - say I love you (say I love you)
- Jesus says read the Bible (pretend to read the Bible)

Thank class for playing and then have them sit at the table for the next activity.

7) Optional: Snack – Cheese and Pretzel Stick Banners

5-10 minutes

Before class prepare snack by cutting cheese in triangle shapes and gather some pretzel sticks. Have a few cheese pieces with the same number of pretzel sticks per student to make a banner like the one they made as a craft today to remind them to thank God!

“You’ve all done a great job this morning learning about how important it is to thank God for Jesus. To help us remember, we are going to talk about ways we can thank God as we enjoy our snack.” Hand out cheese and pretzel sticks to each child and glass of water. Show them how to lay them to make a banner with the cheese as the banner flag and the pretzel stick as the base.

Ask: **What do these cheese and pretzel sticks remind you of?** The banner craft we made earlier.

Why did we make the banner craft? To remind us to thank God for Jesus!

What are some things we can thank God for today? Let students respond. Help them if needed to come up with ideas.

How can we thank God for all He does and has done for us? Let students respond – ideas might include praying to God, coming to church, being nice to others as God commands, giving, singing and listening during services and during the week when our families pray or read the Bible at home....

After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

8) Sing

5-10 minutes

Have children sing songs with you, you can sing from the Song Sheet provided.

9) Close in prayer

Tell students that **we are going to pray, to pray we need to put down everything and fold our hands and bow our heads like this** (show students). **This way we can hear and listen to the prayer and when we sit quietly and focus on God – it makes God happy! We learn this in God’s Word the Bible and we need to obey God.**

First: Ask if there are prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or read yourself.

Second: Remind students to fold hands and bow heads then pray: **Thank You God that You created the world and gave us the Bible. Thank you God that we can know what You want us to do by reading Your special Words – the Bible. Help us to remember to make You and Jesus happy by coming to worship Him every Sunday. Thank you God for sending Your Son Jesus. Thank you for the evangelists and teachers that share the good news of Jesus’ and his life. Thank You God for everyone here today and for those that couldn’t be. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

10) Remind students

To take home their sheets/crafts. Thank them for coming and ask them to help clean up before they leave.

11) Greet Parents at door

Ensure all students go to parents or if some students remain have teacher assistant help you take them to their parents.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!