

Session Twenty-Three: Be Thankful



Today's Point: Give thanks in everything

Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

CSB: give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

KJV: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Today's Bible Skill:

1. Work on memorizing 1 Thessalonians 5:18
2. Divide Books of the Old Testament into divisions.

Bible Truth Activity: Be Thankful

Materials:

Brown butcher paper
Colored construction paper (red, yellow, orange, brown)
Cardstock
Leaf patterns
Kid scissors
Pencils
Painters tape

Prepare

Cut a tree trunk out of the brown butcher paper
Cut leaf patterns out of cardstock – 2 per kid
Hang tree trunk on wall near group time.
Masking tape rings and place by tree – for kids to use when adding leaves to tree

Instructions:

As kids arrive, direct them to the tables with supplies. Instruct kids to use the leaf templates to trace the leaf pattern on different colored construction paper and then cut the leaves out. (If short on time, have leaves already cut out and on tables). Ask kids to write one thing they are thankful for on each leaf. Offer help, if needed.

Invite kids to gather their leaves and join group time. (place leaves under chair)

SAY: Today we are learning a new verse, First Thessalonians 5:18. Is First Thessalonians in the Old Testament or the New Testament? It is in the New Testament. First Thessalonians is a letter Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica. Turn in your Bible to First Thessalonians 5 and place your index finger on verse 18.

Once everyone has found verse.

SAY: Our verse is about being thankful.

ASK: Is it easy to be thankful? Allow for responses

Have you ever had a bad day where everything seemed to go wrong? Maybe you were late for school, forgot your homework, spilt your milk all over you at lunch, and didn't do well on your spelling test. Is it easy to be thankful then?

SAY: Paul reminded the Thessalonians to be thankful. He said to give thanks in everything. He didn't tell them to be thankful only when things are going well, but in everything.

Even on bad days, God wants us to do something important – he wants us to be thankful. Thinking about our bad day – how can we be thankful?

Allow kids to suggest ways they can be thankful for each of the following (be ready to give suggestions if kids have difficulty coming up with something).

- Late for school –
- Forgot homework
- Spilt milk
- Spelling test -

Let's read our verse – First Thessalonians 5:18 – together.

SAY: God wants us to be thankful, even when life is hard. We have so much to be thankful for. To remind us of all the good things God has given us or done for us, we are going to make a Thankful Tree.

What is something you are thankful for? Pick up your leaves, when you are called on, I would like for you to share what you wrote and add your leaves to our tree.

Once leaves have been added – read verse again.

Pray: Thank God everything you do for us. We know that you want us to be thankful. Help us to remember to be thankful in our good times and in our not so good times.

Bible Verse Activity: Craft Stick Puzzles – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Materials:

Large craft sticks – 16 (CSB)/19 (KJV) per kid
Thin Washable Markers
Rubber bands – one per kid
Cardstock – 1 piece for every 3-4 kids
Masking tape

Prepare:

Print verse - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – on cardstock.
Place printed verse on table with materials so kids can see the verse.
Using masking tape, tape sticks 16 (CSB)/19 (KJV) together.

Instructions:

Instruct kids to draw a picture of something they are thankful for on the untaped side of their craft sticks. Once the picture is complete, turn the sticks over and remove the tape. Have the kids write one word of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in the middle of each craft stick. Once all of the words have been written, encourage the kids to work with a partner to put sticks in correct verse order.

- Toss sticks on floor and race to see who can put the verse in order the quickest.
- Lay sticks on floor facedown and take turns drawing a stick to put the verse in order.

Have kids take the verse sticks home and share what they are thankful for with their family. Encourage kids to practice putting the verse together with their parents.

Bible Skills Activity: Minor Prophet Egg Scramble

Materials:

12 ping-pong balls (1 set for every group of up to 4 kids)
1 paper egg carton per group
Thin tip marker
Have a Books of the Bible list available for a teaching tool.

Prepare:

Write each of the Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi) on a separate ping-pong ball (1 set for every group of up to 4 kids)
Place balls into egg carton – be sure the lid closes tightly.
Write Minor Prophets on top of egg carton.

Instructions:

Divide kids into even groups (4 or less per group)

Have groups form a circle and sit on the ground. Instruct the kids that you will give one of their team members a “carton of eggs.” That team member is to shake the carton and allow the “eggs to scramble” on the lid side of the container. When “start” is called, the team will arrange the books in order in the egg carton as quickly as possible. The first team to get the Minor Prophets in order wins. Check for accuracy by having the team call out the names of the books of the Minor Prophets. Repeat the game as time allows.

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