

Thanksgiving All Year ‘Round

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THANKSGIVING: UNIT OVERVIEW

MEMORY VERSE: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thess. 5:16-18

As each day passes, the youth of this generation expect more and more. They want to have all the nice things that the media tells them that they can't live without. They want to "collect them all, have the limited edition, and keep up with the Jones's." In the midst of all this want, there seems to hardly ever be a "thank you" offered; contentment is not even heard of any more. The children that God has lead us to serve are often faced with the lie, "What do I have to be thankful for anyway?"

This unit is designed to let them know that they have a great deal for which to be thankful. They will see what the Bible has to say about the importance of giving thanks. They will hopefully come to understand that thankfulness is not just words uttered after you got the thing that you asked for, but a heart attitude that is thankful even for hard times. This unit will also let them know that thanksgiving is not a seasonal event, but a lifestyle. As we see these children with an air of thankfulness, they will be noticed in the world. When people see a child appreciate something, they stop and take notice. As this attraction draws them to want to understand, they will find Jesus as the source of their thankfulness and lives will be changed!

In this unit on Thanksgiving, you will find many opportunities for thankfulness.

BIBLE CLUB lets you see ten lepers be healed and only one return to thank Jesus, a woman who was so thankful she washed Jesus feet with her hair, 5,000 people be feed from 5 barley loaves and two fish when Jesus gave thanks to His Father, and a barren woman give birth only to offer her son back to God as an act of her thankfulness to Him.

PRACTICAL LIVING gives the students insight on some of the ways that we offer thanksgiving to God during our worship service, how to behave themselves and mind their manners at a formal dinner, learn how other people around the world give thanks, and how to make a fun edible Thanksgiving treat.

READ ALOUD, CRAFTS and **RECREATION** give them opportunities to hear stories of people who were sometimes not that thankful and what happened to them, to make some things that will remind them to be thankful and to learn how to appreciate their teammates, the rules and boundaries.

We pray that this unit will help the students that God has placed in your life to begin to see what they have for which to be thankful. It is our desire to see the lives of these young ones not to be lost to the lies of greed and selfish ambition, but instead to be transformed by an air of thankfulness and a spirit of contentment. They will be able to enjoy life more knowing that they have *so much* for which to be thankful.

WHAT IS THANKFULNESS?: WEEK 1

WEEK 1 - BIBLE CLUB

- LESSON AIM:** The child will understand what it means to be thankful.
- SCRIPTURE:** Luke 17:11-19
- MEMORY VERSE:** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians. 5:16-18

Healing Of The Ten Lepers

This story was written by only one of the apostles, Luke. He was the doctor and more interested in these things. The story is written down to record how Jesus responded to people, even in the light of rejection. It demonstrates Him responding uprightly in the lack of gratitude.

He saw ten men on the road and they called out to Him to be healed. Nine of these men were Jews and the other was a Samaritan. Jesus told these men that they were healed and to go tell the priest. When they looked down at themselves, they looked no different. In faith, these men had to turn and go to the priest, whom they knew they could not even come near if they were not "ceremonially clean." As they walked, the men were healed. Their bodies and their spirits were made right.

As the Samaritan was healed, he realized that Jesus was the reason that he was healed. He was the only one that returned to thank Jesus. Jesus makes reference to this when the man returns. He says, "Where are the other nine?"

Scripture does not say where they were, but they were not in the right place! The Bible Knowledge Commentary says this, "The lack of gratitude by the other nine was typical of the rejection of His ministry by the Jewish nation. He alone had the power to cleanse the nation and make it ceremonially clean.... The nation accepted the things that Jesus could do (such as heal them and feed them) but (they) did not want to accept Him as Messiah. However those outside the nation (such as the Samaritan leper--a person doubly repulsive to the Jews) were responding."

We want our students to be the ones responding with thankfulness both to Jesus and to the world around them.

This will make a difference worth taking note of to the world.

**Discipleship
Tip**

Get one on one with a student this week and ask them what they have to be thankful for today. You might want to share with them what you are thankful for first. This gives them an example and lets them know what exactly you mean by your question. Try not to mention material things. Focus on relationships and just being alive.

Hook

MATERIALS: two snacks, the first one could be water and 2 pretzels, the second one should be one of your student's favorite.

This hook is actually performed during your regularly scheduled snack time. The purpose is for the students to get to experience what it means to be thankful. Today, when they come in for snack, have a very skimpy snack. Have something like water and 2 small pretzels.

- Tell them that you didn't have a lot of money left for snacks this week, so this is all there is. Be sure that you encourage them to pray and thank God for the snack even though it is not very much!
- When they are well into eating their snack, have someone walk in that has one of their favorite snacks. Something like oranges or graham crackers and peanut butter. Something you already know that they like! This person should say something like, "I was thinking about you guys today and thought you might like to have these." This person should be someone they already know and might expect something good from them. An example would be the pastor or even a volunteer. (If it is surprising that this person would bring a snack, then you won't have as much of a chance to see who will be thankful. In their surprise, they may tend to be more thankful.)
- Make sure you take special note of the comments that the students say when they get their snack. See who has a negative comment to say about the snack that they had first. Then, notice who has a negative comment to say about the second snack they are getting! Notice also those who have something good to say and especially those who say THANK YOU!

Bible Story

MATERIALS: props: 10 large trash bags, one blanket and one large belt

BEFORE BIBLE CLUB

This week in BIBLE CLUB, the students are going to act out the story. The best way to do this skit is to gather your students together before hand and tell them the story. The story is pretty simple so they should be able to do the skit from their memory. You might have to prompt them a little, but let them do it on their own as much as you can.

They should take some time and make their "costumes." Lepers in that day were not allowed into the city because of their extremely contagious disease and therefore, were very poor. Their clothes were old and ragged. Have them cut trash bags like they would wear them as clothes.

- **To make the lepers costumes:** Turn the bag bottom up and cut a hole large enough for their head out of the bottom. Then, cut armholes in the appropriate places out of the sides of the bag. (This will give them the ragged look.) They can also tear other holes in their trash bags for more of the ragged effect.
- **To make Jesus' costume:** Take the blanket and wrap it around the student like a robe. Use the belt to tie it on.

Week 1 – WHAT IS THANKFULNESS?

- Choose the most dramatic student to be the Samaritan that comes back to thank Jesus. This will provide some good discussion afterwards! Be sure to assign them the parts before you tell them the story so that they know what character's actions they need to pay special attention to while they are listening.
- You might tell them something like this: There were ten men that had a terrible disease called leprosy. It made everyone want to stay far away from them. People called them lepers. One day, Jesus walked by them and they called to Him and said, "Hey Jesus, we know you are healing lots of people, could you heal us?" All Jesus said was "Go show yourself to the priest." As they went on their way, they were healed. Only one man came back to thank Jesus for what he did. When he found Jesus, he fell down at Jesus' feet and was saying thank you over and over. Jesus said, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where is the other nine?" The man that he healed who is there was still praising Jesus. So Jesus says, "Stand up and go, your faith has made you well."
- If at all possible, run through it once before they do it in front of the students. This might be a good project for one whole class to do together.

DURING BIBLE CLUB:

Begin the time by asking the students a few questions about snack time:

- 1) How did you feel when you came in and heard there wasn't much for snack? Was anyone really hungry? Was anyone mad? Why were you mad?
- 2) How did you feel when _____ (the volunteer) walked in with the snack? Is this the kind of person you thought might do something like this? Is it harder to remember to thank them? Why?
- 3) What kind of things did you hear people say about the first snack? Staff, what did you hear?
- 4) What were the responses from the second snack? Staff, what did you hear.

Hint: This is a time for you to publicly honor students for what they did right, but this is not the time to embarrass students for what they did wrong. They get enough of that from the world, they don't need it here. That does not mean something should not be said to them. Take the time one on one with them and tell them what you or another staff heard them say. Let them respond to you in this way instead of in front of all their friends. You need to model respecting them, so that they can learn to respect you and their peers.

After you are done with the discussion time. Call the students up for the skit.

After they are done with the skit. Break up into groups to do the discussion questions.

Week 1 – WHAT IS THANKFULNESS?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

F A C T

What did Jesus do for the men that he met on the road? *He healed them of their disease.*

How many of the men said thank you to Jesus for what he did? *One*

How did Jesus feel about the ones who didn't say thank you? *He was disappointed in them.*

F A I T H

What did the men have to do to be healed by Jesus? *They had to go show the priest they were healed.*

When Jesus told them to go see the priest, were they healed then? When were they actually healed? *They were not healed when Jesus said that. They were healed on the way to go tell the priest.*

Open your Bible to Luke 17:15-19. Could someone read that for us? (Let them read the text) It tells us how Jesus felt when He did something special for someone and they didn't say thank you.

Have you ever done something special for someone and they didn't say thank you? Can you tell us about it? How did you feel?

F U L F I L L M E N T

What do you think that Jesus has done for us that we need to thank him for right now? *Our life, our salvation, our families, the S.A.Y. Yes!® Center to learn about Him.*

Why do you think that it is important to tell God thank you? *Because he asks us to be thankful.* (Hand out the memory verse to each child on a sheet of paper.)

Our memory verse talks about how God asks us to be thankful. He didn't even say, "Be thankful for all the good things that I gave you." What does it say? This really means everything! In the next few weeks, as we move towards Thanksgiving, we will learn more about what it really means to be thankful in all things.

WEEK 1 - SKITS

Skit #1

CHARACTERS: Maria, Tasha, Vanessa

SCENE: Maria and LaTasha have just arrived at the center and are coming in for snack time. Vanessa, another classmate, comes in to save the day.

LaTasha: (*Looking through her backpack*) Hey, Maria, didn't I put my homework folder in my back pack.

Maria: I thought so. When Mrs. Thompson handed out our homework, we all put it into our homework folder and put it into our back pack.

LaTasha: (*looking like she just remembered something*) Oh, No! I had it out on the bus, because I wanted to see how long it was. I think I could have left it on the bus!

Maria: Really, Mrs. Thompson always talks about how important it is to keep up with our stuff.

LaTasha: Yea, no kidding, and my mom is going to kill me!!

Maria: Well, there's nothing we can do, but we could pray and maybe God could do something.

LaTasha: I guess it couldn't hurt.

The girls lean together and pray.

Maria: (*praying*) Dear Heavenly Father, please help LaTasha find her homework folder so she doesn't get in trouble. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

LaTasha: Well, even if I don't find it, at least I feel better anyway because I know I asked God to help me.

Vanessa walks in and sits down at the snack table.

Maria: Hey, Vanessa, how are you today.

Vanessa: Good. Hey LaTasha, (*pulls a folder out of her back pack and hands it to LaTasha*) I found this on the bus after you get off. I think it's yours.

LaTasha: (*Looks at the folder and picks it up and starts jumping around.*) Yes! She found my folder! I am so glad you got this for me. I was going to get in so much trouble. (*Puts the folder in her back pack*) Whoa! That was a relief.

Maria: LaTasha, aren't you forgetting something?

LaTasha: Forgetting something? I just found it! What are you talking about?

Maria: I am talking about thanking God for answering your prayer.

LaTasha: Oh yea, huh. I guess He did answer it didn't He. I do need remember to thank Him.

The two girls pray together and the scene ends.

Week 1 – WHAT IS THANKFULNESS?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Ask these questions as time allows.)

What was the thing that LaTasha prayed for? *To find her folder*

What was the important thing that she forgot besides the folder? *To thank God*

Does someone remember the Bible Club this week? What did the people need? *To be healed;* **Did they get what they asked for?** *Yes;* **Did they thank Jesus for it?** *Only one ;* **What did Jesus think about this?** *He wasn't that happy;* **What do we need to remember from this skit?** *To thank God when He answers our prayers.*

Skit #2

CHARACTERS: Bobby, Reuben

SCENE: Bobby and Reuben are trying out for the basketball team at school. They have just finished with tryouts and are walking home.

Bobby: Man, those tryouts were hard. I want to make the basketball team so bad, but I am not very tall compared to all those other guys and you know they always are the ones that coaches end up picking for the team.

Reuben: Yea, I know, but you are good. I don't think that just because they're taller than you that coach is going to pick them.

Bobby: Well, I know I did my best. Man, I need to pray that God will help me get on the team.

Reuben: Do you want to pray together right now?

Bobby: Here? *(looks around to see who is watching)* I guess so.

The two boys bow to pray.

Bobby: God, I really want to make that team. Could you help the coach remember me and put me on the team? In your name we pray, Amen.

Reuben: That was cool, Bobby. Now all we have to do is wait and see what happens. I'm glad you wanted to pray!

Have someone say "The next day!"

Reuben and Bobby are reading the names posted on a list of who made the team.

Bobby: *(scanning down the list, talking kind of to himself.)* Come on be there....be there.... YES!!!! There's my name! Look, Reuben. There I am Bobby Johnson!! *(starts jumping around)*

Reuben: Congratulations, Bobby! That's great!

Bobby: *(imitating shooting a basketball)* Do you think it was my jump shot that got the coach or maybe it was my hook that he thought he couldn't do without on his team.

Reuben: Or maybe there is something you forgot.

Bobby: What are you talking about?

Reuben: You did pray and ask God to help you, didn't you?

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Bobby: *(calms down quickly)* You're right. Man, I guess I just forgot about that when I made the team. I knew I needed Him to help me get here, but when I got what I wanted, I think I am the one who did it!!! I need to thank God! Man, I am glad you reminded me of that.

(The boys begin to walk away. As they are leaving you can hear them say....)

I wouldn't want to be like those lepers that Jesus healed in the Bible and not go back to say thank you! Remember when they told us that story at the center?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Ask as many of these as you have time for.)

What were the boys talking about when they left? *The BIBLE CLUB*

What did they mean by saying that he did not want to be like them? *Nine of the lepers who were healed didn't thank Jesus and Jesus was not happy with them.*

Do you think if Bobby hadn't have prayed would he have gotten on the team? *We don't really know that, but that really is not the point. The point is that he prayed and God answered him and so we need to remember to thank Him!*

WEEK 1 - MEMORY VERSE

SCRIPTURE: Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thess. 5:16-18

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE:

God wants his people to be joyful about everything. We have every reason to be that way because of the wonderful things that He has done for us. Then, Paul reminds us to pray continually. The Greek word used here for continually does not mean uninterrupted, but whenever possible. It would be like a hacking cough. It never really goes away, but it is not constant.

Last, Paul tells us to give thanks in all circumstances. The Bible Knowledge Commentary says, "The two previous commands deal with one's time, ('always' and 'continually'); this one deals with circumstances. Christians are to give thanks to God in every circumstance of life. The fact that God works everything together for good (Romans 8:28) is the basis for this entreaty." This really sums it up I think. There is no question about when we should give thanks and there is no question if it is not important in the lives of the believer. We need now to put this into action in our lives so that the children can see it fleshed out before them!

TEACHING THE VERSE:

- Begin to memorize the verse by doing the motions that are listed below. This will help them get familiar with the verse and then in future weeks you can play the games with the verse so that they can remember better and better. We want this verses to be so hidden in their heart that they will be there when they need them.
- This week, the children will learn a pattern of motions and clapping to the memory verse. The rhythm of the pattern will help the verse stick into their mind. The pattern is listed below.

VERSE ACTIONS:

Be: Put your pointer finger and thumb together and make your hand into a bumblebee, then make it fly around.

joyful: smile really big and point to your smile with your two pointer fingers.

always: make a large circle with your hand starting at the elbow of your opposite arm, then going above your head and down to your hip.

pray: put your hands together as if you were praying in front of your face.

continually: stomp your feet on each syllable of "con-tin-u-al-ly"

give: put your hand in your pocket and pull it out as if to give some thing

thanks: smile and pretend to shake someone's hand vigorously

in: clap your hands

Week 1 – WHAT IS THANKFULNESS?

all: make a large circle with your hand starting at the elbow of your other hand, going above your head, down to your hip. (same as always)

circumstances: spread your hands out to each side starting from in front of you, each hand goes out to the side with palms facing up (showing all around)

for: hold up 4 fingers

this: point down as if to prove a point

is: clap hands

God's: point up to heaven

will: put both hands over your heart and then bring them out to show your palms, as if to give someone something from your heart

for: hold up 4 fingers

you: point to someone

in: make a cup with one hand and have the other hand point into it.

Christ: put right hand out as if to hang on the cross

Jesus: put left hand out as if to hang on the cross (this is like two parts of the same word)

1 Thess: hold up one finger and say "first Thessalonians"

5: hold up five fingers

16: slap your leg on each of the syllables of six - teen with different hands. So each hand will slap each leg once.

through: clap your hands

18: do this the same as 16, but say 18

FINISH THE VERSE

MATERIALS: none

- Divide the group into teams of about 5 or 6. The number of teams will depend on the amount of children you have.
- Each team sits down in a circle.
- The first person begins by saying the first word of the verse.
- The second person continues by saying both the first and second word of the verse.
- The third person proceeds by saying the first three words and so on.
- Go around the circle as many times as needed to complete the verse.
- Practice a couple of times and then, do it as a race against the other teams.
- If a mistake is made, the team must begin again at the beginning. However, then change the person who starts the verse so the kids aren't saying the same part of the verse.

WEEK 1 - PRACTICAL LIVING

NEW!

Kitchen Band Worship

MATERIALS: Anything that would make a good musical instrument such as pots and pans, jars of beans, wooden spoons, chopsticks, glasses of water, canisters, bottles and pan lids.

When children arrive, read Psalm 106:1 aloud and then ask:

- 1) **What are some ways we can express our thanks to God?**
- 2) **How do you think God feels when we praise Him?**

Say: **Let's write a song and play it to praise God and thank Him for His love for us.**

Allow children to look at the instrument you have brought and think about the one they would like to play and help them write a song. Try to write the lyrics first. It might help to have them use the melody to a familiar song like, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Jesus Loves Me," or "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."

Once they have the lyrics down, add the instruments. Have them try the using particular instruments in different part of the song or using different rhythms . Once they have some kind of music going, have them practice and then do a performance. Remind them that they are playing to God, to praise Him. You may want to have the children perform their song for other people in the church.

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OR, you may do the following . . .

Planning A Holiday Meal

MATERIALS: Magazine pictures of nice table settings; crackers, cheese, peanuts, potato chips, pickles, carrots, etc.; 3 paper plates per child; tables and chairs; platters; magazine pictures of food;

Today we are going to plan a holiday meal. We are going to imagine that our extended family is coming for dinner. Or if you do not live near your family you have invited a group of friends over. It is going to be a festive occasion. There are ten people coming for dinner.

This is a special day so you want to make it as nice as possible. To make it an incredible feast you must take the time to plan it out. That is what we are going to do right now:

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- Have the children dream with you of what they think a holiday festive meal would be like.
- Many of the children have perhaps never experienced a formal dinner party.
- Have pictures from magazines that you can show the children. Have a variety of pictures from very formal to nice but casual. In week one of this unit they learned how to set a formal table.
- Explain the difference between a buffet and a sit-down dinner.
- Have a table set for a buffet. On your buffet table you can have crackers, cheese, olives, potato chips, pickles, carrots, etc.. (If your center is in an ethnic area use foods that would be served in their homes. See question 1 below for what each of these represent.)
- Give each child a paper plate and let them walk around the buffet table taking what they wish. Before they begin around the table tell them each food item represents a larger food item that might actually be served at a holiday meal.
- Have them sit down at a table. As they eat continue your discussion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Each of the items on our buffet table represents a larger item that might actually be served for a holiday meal. What do you think each item represents? *Crackers-bread; cheese-meat; potato chips-mashed potatoes; pickles-cooked vegetables; carrots-fresh green salad; olives-relish tray. Be sure to make the foods fit your neighborhood.)*

- Now let them experience a family-served meal. Tell them they are to use their imaginations. Bring in platters with pictures (cut from magazines) of food on them. Show them how to pass the platters from person to person, “taking” a little from each platter for themselves.
- Clear the table and now have them experience a formally served dinner. Serve each child a paper plate with pictures of food on them. Tell them they should wait until everyone has been served before they begin to eat.

You have now experienced three kinds of dinners. Which kind of dinner should we plan?
Let the children vote on which of three dinners.

Next week we will decide which foods we will serve at our dinner. It will of course will depend on how much money we have. This coming week begin thinking about how much money it might cost to feed ten people a holiday meal. You could look at advertisements in the newspapers to get an idea or ask your parents what they think.

WEEK 1 - READ-A-LOUD

“Mr. Vinegar and His Fortune”

Retold by James Baldwin; *The Book of Virtues* p.48

SUMMARY: This is the story about a simple old man and his wife who become discontent with their life, so they set out to seek their fortune. They stumble upon 50 pieces of gold; they are convinced that they have found their fortune.

The wife wants him to buy a cow so that they can milk it and have a source of income. The husband agrees and sets off to find a cow. He buys the cow for all the money that he has. Then,, he sees something else he wants and trades the cow for that thing. Through a series of trades he ends up with only a walking stick. A bird tells him he is foolish and his wife agrees. He throws the stick at the bird and it gets stuck in the tree, so he ends up with nothing at all.

The point we want to teach the children is that being thankful means being thankful for what you have and not what you think you want.

PRE READING QUESTIONS:

- 1) **Can someone tell me what a fortune is?** *The wealth that you want to have, a lot of money, maybe even the amount of money that you have, usually refers to a great amount.*
- 2) **Have you ever been in a group where you and many other people were given gifts at the same time and you liked your gift until you saw what they got? Can anyone tell me about a time like that they can remember?**

This story is about a man who was a lot like that. He always thought that the thing someone else had was better than what he had. He didn't really know how to be thankful.

LISTENING QUESTIONS:

As I read this story, I want you to be listening for the answers for these questions. At the end we will talk about them.

- 1) **Why did they leave to seek their fortune?** *Because the door fell off the house.*
- 2) **What did the wife think they needed to be happy?** *A cow, so they could milk it and make butter to sell.*
- 3) **What did the Mr. Vinegar do with the money he found?** *He bought a cow, then bagpipes, then gloves, then a walking stick and finally he lost that in the tree - so he ended up with nothing!*

POST READING QUESTIONS:

First, answer the listening questions that they were waiting for in the story.

- 1) **Do you remember any time when he was thankful?** *When they slept on the door in the tree.*
- 2) **When is the first time Mr. Vinegar should have been thankful?** *When the robbers didn't hurt them and left the money.*
- 3) **If you had found that money, what could you do to be thankful?** *Give some to God - tithe, pray and thank God for it.*

The Bible says that every good thing we get comes from God. (James 1:17) So we need to be sure to thank Him for it!

- 4) **Why do you think it is hard to remember to be thankful?**

WEEK 1 - CRAFTS

NEW!

✂ Thankfulness Times Ten

MATERIALS: Bible, colored construction paper, scissors, crayons, markers

Start today by having the children tell you a time when you thanked someone and why you thanked them. Tell them that there is a story in the Bible about someone who thanked Jesus. (If you have already done your Bible Club for this week you can have the class tell you the events of the story of Luke 17: 11-19 or you can have someone read the story from the Bible just so that they can hear what the Bible says one more time. Be sure to pick an easy to read version if you do this.)

After you read or tell the story ask:

- 1) **How do you think Jesus felt when only one of the sick men came back to thank Him?**
- 2) **Why is it important to express our thanks?**

Tell them: **Today we are going to make thankful reminders to use when we pray.**

- First, fold a sheet of paper in half.
- Then place your hand so that your pinkie finger lines up with the edge of the paper, and trace around your hand.

Show them how to trace around their hand, but not around the side of your pinkie.

- Now, cut around the hand shape, but not around the side of your pinkie. That way you will make a hand print card.

When everyone has made a hand print card, say: **Now think of ten things that you are thankful for and write one of those things on each finger (or thumb) of your card. When you pray, you can open your card and find lots of things to thank God for.**

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OR, you can do the following . . .

A Craft Project

MATERIALS: Construction paper in bright fall colors, paper plates, glue and markers, scissors.

THEME: This craft is designed so that the students can begin to think about some things that they are thankful for and so that you will have something seasonal to display at the first of the month.

- Begin by having the students trace around their hand onto a piece of construction paper.
- Then, have them cut out their hand. Use the thumb as the neck and head of the turkey. The fingers are the feathers.
- Glue the turkey onto a paper plate so that it will be a little stiffer.
- Draw legs on the turkey and a beak.
- On each one of the feathers have the students write something that they are thankful for in their life.
- Be sure to have them write their names on the front of the plates so that they can recognize theirs when you put them up at the youth center.
- You might want to have some things that they might need to spell written up on a board that they can see like: thankful, family, friends, etc.

You can put it on a board titled, “Some of the things that we are thankful for at the S.A.Y. Yes!® Center”

WEEK 1 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Team Building

MATERIALS: Students divided into two teams, (the list should be prepared by the staff in advance), poster board, and marker.

SET-UP:

- Today you are going to create two permanent teams. These teams would play together everyday during recreation. However, these teams will change every month. This gives the students a chance to learn to work with new team members. It also gives them a chance to play on a winning team if they were not in the past.
- You will want to make sure the teams are evenly matched age wise.
- You may want to sit down as a Staff team and decide who will be on what teams. Be sure and keep your lists from the previous months so that you can remember who played together in the past.
- Have each team come up with a team name. It can be whatever they want. The names that our students liked best were ones that had to do with their relationship with Jesus. Acronyms are fun to use too.
- Have each team create a team cheer. (Raps are fun too!)
- Remember that during recreation winning isn't as important as participation and spirit.
- Make posters, which you will keep up and post the scores.

THE WISE ONES		THE WISDOM SEEKERS	
COMPETITION	SPIRIT POINTS	COMPETITION	SPIRIT POINTS
1,000	20,000	2,000	10,000
500	10,000	1,000	30,000
500	40,000	2,000	10,000

Note that the ultimate winners are the ones with the highest spirit points, not the winners of the competition.

- At the end of each week you can give out S.A.Y. Yes!® dollars in accordance with the points. Every 1,000 points may be worth 1 dollar and every 10,000 spirit points may be worth 2 dollars.
- The coordinator of recreation assigns the points.
- The poster needs to be placed where the kids can see it.
- Be sure to talk about making right choices to earn Spirit Points. What are some things they can do to earn Spirit Points? Participate in everything, cheer on teammates, don't cheat, don't complain, don't tease or call names, etc..

Week 1 – WHAT IS THANKFULNESS?

- Give competition points out in one thousand increments and Spirit Points in ten thousand increments.
- Have the two teams do their cheers. Begin the scoring with this activity. How many of the kids participated? How did they encourage each other? How creative was the cheer? Did it include physical activity? (Making a pyramid, doing hand gestures, etc..)
- If time is left, have a game ready from the past weeks to play.

DAY TWO: Steal The Bacon

MATERIALS: Something to use as the “bacon” (rag, chalk eraser, twig, etc.)

- Have the students break into their two teams.
- Each team forms a line facing each other.
- Number each team, start the numbering from the opposite ends. Try to match students age wise as much as possible.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
bacon
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

- The “bacon” (rag, chalk eraser, twig, etc.) is laid in the center between the two teams.
- The leader calls out a number.
- The two players with that number run to the center and try to grab the “bacon”
- However, if you are holding the “bacon” and the opposing player tags you, his team receives the point.
- If you grab the “bacon” and are able to make it back to your line without being tagged your team wins a point.
- Players may pick up the “bacon” and drop it if they think they are going to be tagged.
- The “bacon” may be kicked or tossed, BUT it **must be carried across the line.**

DEBRIEF

- 1) How did the players participate? Were they thankful for the chance to play a game?
- 2) Did they encourage each other? Did they complain when they didn't win? Did they accuse others of cheating?

Everyone can have fun, not everyone can win. True winners are not the ones with the most points but the ones who have truly enjoyed themselves.

DAY THREE: Shoe Scramble

For three days you have talked about making the right choices during the playing of games. Will they make the right choice today without you having to say anything? Are they learning? In the heat of competition we are able to see what is actually going on inside of the child.

MATERIALS: None

OBJECT: To be the first team to have all it's shoes back on, laced, buckled, etc.

- Divide players into their teams.
- Have all players remove their shoes and place them in one big pile. Mix up the pile, make sure no shoes are tied together, place the pile an equal distance from all the teams.

TO PLAY:

- When the counselor says, "Go," the first player from each team runs to the pile, finds his shoes and returns to his team tagging the next player.
- The second player runs to the pile and finds his shoes, returning to tag the third player.
- The next player may go before the first player has his shoes completely on and tied.
- Every player must have his shoes on and tied before the team is declared a winner.

OBSERVE:

- 1) How did the students respond to others on their team when they were loosing? How did they respond when they were winning?
- 2) When were they thankful to be a member of that team? When were they tired of playing on teams? How can they focus on the good of playing on teams. How can they appreciate their other team members?

DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun play equipment that you have

This is a time to let the students make up their own rules to games and enforce them. Feel free to play with them, but do not take control of organizing the game. Let them do this and follow their rules. Ask the students to try to participate with their friends in the best way possible. Remind them that the rules of the center should still be abided by during this time.

Have fun!

THE MAGNITUDE OF THANKFULNESS: WEEK 2

WEEK 2 – BIBLE CLUB

- LESSON AIM:** The child will begin to understand the magnitude of our thankfulness to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.
- SCRIPTURE:** Luke 7:36-50
- MEMORY VERSE:** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians. 5:16-18

The Woman Who Washed Jesus' Feet with Her Hair

This story illustrates how someone who has done many things wrong understands forgiveness much more than the person who considers themselves righteous. Many of the children that we are working with think that they have done so many things wrong that there is nothing Jesus could do for them now. They are "beyond repair." What we must help them see is that this could not be further from the truth. This is why this week we will share the gospel with the children after the BIBLE CLUB so that they can have a chance to respond to the thing that gives us the most overwhelming spirit of thankfulness.

The characters in this story are direct opposites, but not by mistake. The Pharisee Simon, who is the host of the dinner party, thinks that he is not in need of Jesus. He does not even give him the traditional welcome of a guest.

Usually a host would give a man a kiss on the cheek, have water for him to wash his feet and would anoint the guest's head with a small portion of oil. Simon did none of these things. The woman on the other hand was known in the town for her lifestyle. She came in and wet his feet with her tears, kissed his feet, wiped them with her hair and anointed his feet with expensive perfume. She is a picture of submission, thankfulness and adoration for the one that she believed to be the Messiah.

Jesus makes the contrast clear in verse 47, where Jesus says that her sins are many so she loves much and those whose sins are few loves little. The point is that both will have the same destiny without Christ. This is what we want the kids to see. If they had only done one thing wrong, they would still be guilty and thus must be separated from God for eternity! We all need to be as overwhelmingly thankful as the widow.



**Discipleship
Tip**

DISCIPLESHIP TIP: Get one-on-one with the kids. Ask them if they think there is anything that they have done that Jesus could not possibly forgive. Even if they don't have the courage to tell you, have them write it on a piece of paper. Tell them, if they have Jesus in their heart, even the thing that is on that paper is forgiven. Then, have them tear up the paper into little tiny pieces. Pray and thank God for forgiving them. Staff, be ready to share something that you never thought Jesus could forgive. You can't expect them to share their deepest secrets when they don't see it modeled! True discipleship will cost you something, but it is worth it!

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

NEW! *This telling of the Bible story is designed for the youngest age group (k-2)*

Materials: Bible

Open your Bibles to Luke 7:36-50 to show children the passage. Say:

This Bible story is about a sinful woman who received forgiveness from Jesus. Let's pretend we are listening to the woman. Have the children join you in doing the italicized motions throughout the story.

Have you heard about Jesus? *(Clap your hand over your ear.)* **Well, I just heard that a Pharisee who lives nearby asked Jesus to come to his house to eat.** *(Point with an outstretched arm.)* **I'm going to take this beautiful white jar of perfume with me.** *(Pretend to hold out a jar in front of you.)* **Come with me!** *(Wave, "Come on.")* **We'll see if we can get in to see Jesus. Let's run.** *(Run in place.)* **Oops! I tripped and almost dropped my jar!** *(Pretend to stumble and catch the jar as it falls.)*

Here we are. We will knock on the door. *(Knock on a pretend door and tap your foot.)* **Maybe they can't hear me. Let's try to open the door. It's unlocked, but it's heavy!** *(Groan while pretending to open a heavy door.)* **Can you see Jesus?** *(Stand on our tiptoes with your hand over your eyebrows as if peering into a crowd.)* **There He is!** *(Point excitedly.)* **Excuse me! Excuse me! I need to get past! Excuse me!** *(Squirm and struggle to get through the crowd.)*

I'm right behind Him. I can't believe I am actually in His presence. *(Put your hand over your mouth in awe.)* **Oh, I've done so many wrong things I shouldn't even be near Jesus.** *(Kneel and pretend to cry.)* **I'm worse than the lowest servant who washes the feet of the guests.** *(Pretend to wash Jesus feet as you wipe away tears.)* **I know I am a sinner, but it is so wonderful just to be near Jesus.**

Where is my jar of perfume? *(Pretend to look around on the floor while still kneeling.)* **Here it is. I will give it all to Jesus to sooth His feet.** *(Pretend to pour perfume from the jar onto Jesus' feet.)*

I know that Pharisee is looking at me. His eyes look like I have done something really bad. *(Look from left to right as you continue to pour perfume.)* **He is probably thinking, "What is that sinful woman doing at Jesus' feet.** *(Put your hand on your hips and frown.)*

But wait, is Jesus talking about me? *(Point to yourself.)* **What is He saying?** *(cup your hand behind your ear.)* **My sins are forgiven?** *(Put your hands out with your palms held up.)* **Mine?** *(Put your hands over your chest.)* **He loves me that much? Oh, Jesus thank you!** *(Clasp your hands together.)* **Now I can go in peace just as Jesus told me to.** *(Stand up and walk in place.)*

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Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

Hook

Materials: the patterns for the turkey, pieces of the turkey already cut out, (body, gobble, beak), strips of paper for feathers (red, orange, yellow and black), pencils, black markers, glue, scissors, and a special prize for all the winners (something better than you might normally give out).

(You will need a set of each of these items for every three or four students that you have at your center.) Materials should be divided as follows:

Group One

1 turkey cut out
1 red gobble cut out
1 orange beak cut out
4 strips of paper for the feathers:
(1 red, 1 orange, 1 yellow, 1 black)
1 feather pattern
1 pencil
1 black marker
Scissors
Glue

(They can complete the turkey but it won't be exactly the same! See what they do!)

Group Two

*no turkey
1 red gobble cut out
1 orange beak cut out
4 strips of paper for the feathers
(1 red, 1 yellow, 1 orange, 1 black)
1 feather pattern
no pencil, scissors, or glue

(This group can't even get started because they don't even have a foundation. Watch and see if they ask for their supplies one at a time or all together.)

Group Three

1 turkey cut out
* no gobble or beak
* no beak
4 strips of paper for the feathers:
(*no black, 2 red, 1 yellow, 1 orange)
*no feather pattern
1 pencil
1 black marker
Scissors
Glue

(This group has some things that they need but see if they use the feather pattern when you provide it or just try it on their own.)

Group Four

turkey cut out
glue and scissors

(This group has nothing else. Let them feel their need for a while before you rescue them!!)

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

PURPOSE: The experiment that you are setting up is to create a place where some have a huge need and others don't have such a big need. Then, they will see how it feels to get those needs met. The result should be varying degrees of thankfulness.

- Divide the students into groups of three or four.
- Give different groups varying amounts of supplies as shown below.
- Show the students the example craft that you made in advance.
- Tell them they are to make their craft look exactly like the one that you made and if they do they will receive a special prize.
- Remind them that finishing first is not important, the important thing is doing it exactly right.
- Tell them that if there is something that they are missing that this is all you have and they should try their best and make it look exactly like this model as they can.
- While the students are working, have some staff walking around saying things like, "remember, it has to be perfect to get the prize."
- To the groups that don't have many supplies they should say things like, "I guess *you* won't be getting any prize."
- Then, after they have had a little time to feel the stress of not having enough, have someone begin to sneak supplies to them. Tell them not to say anything to anyone else, just keep quiet. Slowly groups will begin to finish.

Look and see who is more excited about completing the turkey. Is it the ones who really didn't need much, or is it the ones who thought that they would have no chance to get a prize. As soon as all the students are finished, have them sit back down for the bible club time. Tell them: **"Just as there were some of you who thought you wouldn't get a chance at the prize today, there was a lady in the Bible who thought she would not go to heaven until she met Jesus and a man who thought he could get to heaven on his own. They are both here today and they would like to tell you their story. Let's hear what they have to say."**

Bible Story

MATERIALS: Costumes for "the woman," Simon, Jesus, and the announcer

The Leno Letterman Show

The Bible story today will be told in the form of a talk show. The name is just for fun. If you want to change the host to someone more relevant to your kids, feel free. The script follows but it is only to be used as a guideline. Have fun but let the kids know what the Bible really says in this story.

CHARACTERS: Simon, the Pharisee, "the woman" who is forgiven from her sins, Jesus, Leno Letterman (the announcer or the narrator of sorts)

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

Voice from off stage: And now, the host (hostess) who lets you know the truth and it is still exciting, Leno Letterman!

(Applause)

Leno: Hello, everybody! I'm so glad all of you could make it today. We have a great show lined up for you today. Our guests today are two very different people, but we have a lot to learn from them both. Our first guest is a Pharisee. A Pharisee is a man who studies the Bible and tries to know everything about it. These people were Jews that lived during Jesus time. Ladies and gentleman, please welcome, Simon!!!!

Simon walks in and takes a seat.

Leno: So, Simon, I hear you have met Jesus.

Simon: Yes, that is true. Everyone is talking about him these days, but I don't believe all this stuff about him being God. I had heard him preach a couple of times, but I wanted to be able to ask Him my questions, so I decided to invite him over for dinner.

Leno: You had Jesus over for dinner? Wow. I bet you went all out for that thing!

Simon: Actually, no. I figured he is just an ordinary guy so why treat him special?

Leno: Whoa, let me get this straight, you think that Jesus is just any other guy? Tell me how do you plan to get to heaven?

Simon: Well, I know almost every word of the Bible. I am a very righteous person. Yeah, I have done one or two things wrong, but I have done so many things right, I am sure that when I die those things that I have done right will outweigh the few minor mistakes that I made.

Leno: Well, it must be nice to have your life under control like that. I think it is time to meet our next guest. This woman is well known in her town, but for all the wrong reasons. She got to meet Jesus too and she wants to tell you about it. Will our second guest please come out?

The Woman comes out with a huge grin on her face and sits down.

Leno: Thank you so much for coming today! I hear that you got to meet Jesus too. Can you tell us about this?

The woman: I am so glad you asked. Since I met Jesus, my life has not been the same.

Leno: Really that sounds a lot different than our friend Simon over here. Could you tell us what is so special about him that changed your life?

The woman: I guess guys like Simon who are respected in the community don't really know what it is like to have people look down on you. I have done some really bad things and felt there was no reason to change because no one cared about me. Then one day, I heard about Jesus. They told me that he could heal people and forgive their sins. I thought there is no way that he could ever forgive what I did! But it was true. He forgave me!! *(Act incredibly excited!)* He loves me no matter what I've done. I heard that he was having dinner over at Simon's and I wanted to thank him myself. I just couldn't stop myself. I got the most expensive perfume I could find and I went over to Simon's. As soon as I saw him tears just started pouring out of my eyes.

Leno: So you walked in and started crying?

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

The woman: Oh yeah. I went right up to Jesus and started kissing his feet. I was so glad to see him. As I was crying, I saw that my tears were dripping on his feet and they were getting his feet all wet, so I started drying his feet with my hair. Then, I poured the perfume on his feet. This was my sign to him that I loved him and that he was very special to me!

Leno: Wow! This is really exciting. So you were pretty happy to see Jesus then, huh?

The woman: Oh yes! Can you imagine someone who loves you no matter what you did? And not only that but he forgave me for everything that I did! He said now I can go to heaven! I never thought someone like me could get to heaven. Wow!

Leno: I want to know what was Jesus doing this whole time?

Simon: I can answer that, she was a little preoccupied. When I saw this woman touching Jesus, I said to myself, “If this man, Jesus really is a prophet, then he would know that this woman is a sinner.” Just then Jesus said, “There was a rich man who loaned two guys money. The first guy he loaned 1 million dollars and the second guy he loaned 1,000 dollars. Neither could repay him so he told them that they didn’t have to repay him.” Then Jesus asked, “Who do you think would love him more?”

Leno: Hmmm, good question, so what did you say?

Simon: I said the first one of course because he had more to forgive.

Jesus walks in from “back stage.” He stands in front of the room and looks at Simon.

Leno: (*Very excited!*) Look at this! It’s Jesus right here on our show. Remember ladies and gentleman. You saw it here on our show first!!!

Jesus: Simon, you were right when you said that weren’t you?

Simon: Yes.

Jesus: Do you remember the next thing that I told you?

Simon: (*looking down at the floor.*) Yes, I remember.

The woman has gotten down at Jesus feet and begun kissing them.

Jesus: I told you to look at this woman(*points down to the woman at his feet.*). You gave me no water to wash my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no hug or kiss on the cheek when I came in, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since she walked in the room. You did not show me any signs of respect, but she has been putting expensive perfume on my feet. (*To audience*) The reason that the woman responded this way to me is simple. Her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.

Jesus walks off stage.

Leno: Wow! Can you believe Jesus Christ was right here on our show! That is great! Thank you all for coming. (*Waves to the audience.*) Remember, you heard all the truth here on the Leno Letterman show. (*Characters exit*)

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did Simon think about Jesus? Did he think he was God's son? Why? *Simon thought Jesus was an everyday person. No, because he thought he knew so much about the Bible that he would know the Messiah when he came and this man wasn't him.*

What did the woman think of Jesus? Did she think that he was the son of God? Why? *The woman loved Jesus very much because he forgave her sins and loved her anyway. She knew only God's son could do this, so she thought he must be.*

What did Jesus think about Simon? the woman? *He thought that Simon was too proud of all the things he had done right. Jesus knew that only one sin would keep you out of heaven. Jesus knew that the woman could see her sin and see that she needed someone to forgive her. Jesus knew that Simon couldn't see that he needed to be forgiven by the way that he treated him.*

Why do you think the woman responded like she did when she saw Jesus? *She realized that she was a terrible sinner without him, but with him she was forgiven. She was loved by him. No one had really loved her before this. She was so happy, she just couldn't keep all the feelings inside her.*

How do you think you would respond if you saw Jesus? What does he mean to you?

Does everyone need Jesus as much as that sinful woman? Open your Bibles to Romans 3:23 and see what the bible says about it. Can someone read that?

According to this verse, who needs Jesus? *All of us!*

Do some need it more than others? *No, we have all sinned.*

Do you think Jesus could ever forgive the things that you have done wrong? Do you think that some of the things that you have done are too bad for Jesus to forgive? *That is what the woman in the story thought, but Jesus forgave her.*

Let's look at Romans 5:8. Did Jesus die for us after we cleaned up our act? When did he die? *While we were still sinners!!*

Now, look up Romans 6:23. What do we deserve? What did God give us? *We deserved death, God gave us eternal life.*

We can see from these verses about sin, that we have a lot to be thankful for. We have so much to be thankful, sometimes it is hard to know where to start. Let's take some time to talk to God about our sin. Thank him for what he has given you. If you would like to receive the free gift of eternal life that Jesus offers, please talk to me after the prayer.

WEEK 2 - SKITS

Skit #1

CHARACTERS: Jerome, Reuben, Bobby

SCENE: Jerome, a friend from school, comes to tell Reuben and Bobby that Shaquille O’Neal (or anyone that your students like) was coming to film a movie down the street. Extra characters needed - a woman to push a baby stroller and someone to run through holding a “car” sign.

Jerome: *(runs on to the basketball court where Reuben and Bobby are playing)* Hey guys! You would not believe who is down the street?

Reuben: Who?

Jerome: It’s Shaquille O’Neil! He’s filming a movie right down the street! Come on! Let’s Go!

Boys take off down the street, actors should run through the middle of the kids to make them more involved and catch them by surprise!

Bobby: *(as he is running begins to slow down)* Hey guys that light is about to change we should wait!

Jerome: Come on! We’ve got to hurry, I want to get a good view!

Boys run through the light and keep running.

Reuben: Hey, guys look, that light is green! If we really hurry we can catch it!

All the boys are coming tearing down the sidewalk and a woman who is pushing a baby in a stroller pushes it right in front of them (the stroller can be imaginary of course if you don’t have one there). They have to come to a halting stop. Right as the light changes, someone holding a sign that says “car” runs through the red light that they were trying to make it in time for. The boys look at other in amazement!

Bobby: Man, that was a little too close for me! That car would have hit us if we had tried to make that light!

Reuben: I guess sometimes we don’t even realize all the things that we have to be thankful for!

Jerome: Yeah, if that lady didn’t cut us off.....well, who knows.

Reuben: I think God was looking out for us. He probably does stuff like this all the time and most of the time we never see it. This time we saw it so that we could be reminded of how thankful that we need to be!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What was it that almost happened to the boys? *They were almost hit by a car.*

Do you think they could really understand how thankful they should have been? *No, we can’t understand it just as we can’t really understand how thankful that we should be for our salvation!*

Have any of you ever had a situation that made you realize how thankful you should be?

Skit #2

CHARACTERS: Reporter, Reuben, Maria

SCENE: There has just been a (hurricane, earthquake, tornado - whatever you would have in your area) and there is a reporting interviewing people for the news about what happened. Reuben and Maria are being interviewed.

Reporter: *(holding a microphone)* Hello, this is Margaret Harris with channel 4 news and I am here at the site of the most recent earthquake to hit the LA area. There are people everywhere who have lost their homes and some even their lives. There were four people found dead so far. We have with us tonight two elementary school students that have survived the earthquake. Their names are Reuben and Maria. Can you guys tell me what you saw? *(leans the microphone down to interview Reuben.)*

Reuben: Well, it was the middle of the afternoon and we were out here playing and all of the sudden we felt the ground start to move and things begin to fall. *(pointing)* I saw the power lines over there fall as one of the first things to hit, then I saw our neighbors' roof begin to crack and fall in.

Maria is holding on to Reuben fearfully and standing behind him not saying a word.

Reporter: I bet that was really scary! Did you know anyone who got hurt?

Reuben: Actually, no. Our neighbors were at work when it happened so they were safe.

Reporter: I guess you guys have a lot to be thankful for tonight.

Reuben: Yeah, I didn't know I could be so thankful just to sleep in my own house tonight with my family.

Reporter: It always seems like you can never really realize how much you have to be thankful for until you almost lose it! Well, thanks for talking to me Reuben. *(The reporter turns back as if to look at the camera.)* That is all we have for now. Back to you in the studios. For Channel 4 news this is Margaret Harris.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What kinds of things did Reuben and Maria have to be thankful for that they didn't even realize? *House, family, friends, things in their house, being safe at home*

What kinds of things can you be thankful for right now before a situation like this?

WEEK 2 - MEMORY VERSE

SCRIPTURE: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Hangman Verse

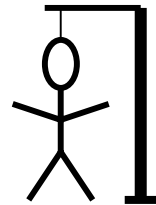
MATERIALS: Copy of verse per child, board or large paper and writing utensils for it

SET-UP

- Have the girls on one team and the boys on the second team. This is an easy way to mix the ages. You can also play on their teams from recreation.
- Give each child a copy of the verse.
- Give time to study the verse.

TO PLAY

- Two people from each team go to the front at the same time (the purpose of pairs is so one child does not feel alone if he messes up).
- If the two players on a team are not able to come up with the correct word, they draw the first part of the "Hangman."
- If they get their word correct, they sit down and two more people from each team come up and quote the third and fourth words of the verse.
- Go through the entire verse in this same manner.
- Go through the verse several times with different players having to quote different words of the verse.
- As the verse goes along, you will discover the children quote the entire verse to get to the word they need to quote.
- The winning team is the team with the least amount of the hangman drawn at the end of the time.
- If you need to break a tie, see how many of the children from each team can quote the entire verse and reference from memory. The team with the most children able to do so then wins.



WEEK 2 - PRACTICAL LIVING

Budgeting A Holiday Meal

MATERIALS: a set of grocery store advertisements for each group of children; an added list of items they may wish to purchase which aren't in the advertisements; pencil per group; paper per group

Today we are going to continue working on the meal, which we started planning last week. We are now going to actually decide on the food, which we are going to serve. The food we serve is largely based on the amount of money, which we have to spend.

Remember we are going to serve ten people. We should also consider the decorations in our budget, unless we have things from a previous year.

- Have the children get into small groups. Mix the older and the younger children together.
- Give each group the same set of grocery store advertisements from a local newspaper. You might add to it a list of items they might want that isn't in the advertisements. Be sure to put the prices with the items.
- They are to select items from the newspaper they want to serve for their dinner. Remind them they need enough of each item to serve ten people.
- Give them about five minutes.
- Have each group tell the others what they have planned. As they share write it on the board. Be sure to keep track of the amount of food and the cost.
- Look at each set of suggestions. Does it stay within the suggested budget? Does it provide for a festive meal? Is it a well-balanced meal? Did they remember to put in the decorations?

WEEK 2 - READ-A-LOUD

“The Fisherman and His Wife”

Retold by Clifton Johnson: *The Book of Virtues* p. 53

SUMMARY: This story is about a poor fisherman and his wife. One day the fisherman catches a magic fish. The fish convinces the fisherman to throw him back and not eat him. When the fisherman tells his wife about the incident, she asks him why he didn't ask the fish for anything. So, she tells him to go back and ask for a comfortable house. The fisherman asks and the fish gives it. The wife is not content and keeps sending her husband back for more and more things until finally she is the pope. The fisherman thought that this would surely be enough, until she sent him back to ask if she could be lord of the sun and the moon. At that request, the fish takes away everything to put her back where she started.

The point we want the students to see is she had so much to be thankful for, much like how thankful we need to be for our salvation, but we can never realize how much we have until it is gone. We need to thank God for what he has given us every day, especially our salvation!

PRE READING QUESTIONS:

If you could wish for anything, what would you wish for?

Do you think if you had that you would be happy?

It always seems like if we had one more thing, then, we would be happy, but it never seems to be enough. For the woman in this story, it was never enough. Let's see what she asks for and what happens to her.

LISTENING QUESTIONS:

As I read this story, be listening for the answers to these questions and we will talk about them at the end.

What did the fisherman catch at sea that was so special? *A magic fish.*

What was something that the wife asked for? *A comfortable house, a castle, to be queen, to be the pope, to be the lord of the sun and the moon.*

What was it that made the wife really happy? *Nothing!*

POST READING QUESTIONS:

First, answer the questions that they were to be listening for during the story.

Why do you think the woman was never happy?

What could the husband have done to help his wife be happy? *Helped her to understand that happiness is not in things and tell her that he would not go back to the fish any more.*

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

Do you remember in Bible Club how thankful the woman was who kept kissing Jesus' feet? Why was she so thankful? *Because she had been forgiven much, she had been given a great gift!*

What should the wife have done to the fish? *Thanked him so much for all that he gave her!*

What do you have now that you could be more thankful for? *Family, place to stay, clothes, food, friends, the S.A.Y. Yes!® Center*

WEEK 2 - CRAFTS

NEW!

✂ Thanksgiving Cornucopias

MATERIALS: Old magazines, scissors, paper, glue sticks, markers

Start today by explaining to the children that one thing they might see around at thanksgiving is a cornucopia (or horn of plenty). Explain that thanksgiving time is a time when all the harvest items are gathered from the field like apples and gourds. This is a time to thank God for all the things that He has made grow this year. Today, we are going to make our own horn, but we are going to fill it with some of the things that God has given us this year to make us thankful.

Show the children how to take a large piece of orange or brown construction paper and make a cone shape out of it. You probably want to staple it closed so that you make sure it can endure all the sticking in the next part. (For the youngest children you want to have theirs made in advance.)

Have the children look through magazines and find examples of things that they are thankful for. This might be someone who looks like their mom, a dog that looks like their's, a favorite food, etc.. (For the youngest children, you need to have items already cut out so that they can choose some of the pictures that are already cut out.)

After they have cut out about 5- 8 things, depending on their size, have them use a glue stick and glue their items inside their cornucopia.

Discussion questions for while they are working:

- 1) Why did you choose that picture?
- 2) Why are you thankful for the thing or person in that picture?
- 3) Have you ever told that person that you are thankful for them?

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OR, you may do the following . . .

✂ Rice Art

MATERIALS: One medium bag of long grain rice (under a \$1.00 size in plenty!), different colors of food coloring, glue, heavy paper - poster board or mat board is best, but construction paper will work too and pencils.

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

BEFORE CRAFT:

- Die the rice by putting about a cup full into a bowl or dish. Add about 7 or 8 drops of food coloring and stir it with a spoon. Keep stirring until rice is all colored. You might need a little more color, just add it as needed. Rice may not all be the same shade of the color, but that is okay. It will add some variety to the picture.
- If you want to mix some colors together, here are some mixtures:
 - Red + Yellow = Orange
 - Red + Blue = Purple
 - Red + Blue + Yellow = Brown
- Put about a half of a cup of each color at each table. Then, refill as necessary.

DURING CRAFT:

Begin the craft time by saying something like:

This week we have been talking about how much we have to thank God for everyday. We call this the magnitude of our thanksgiving. Today, we are each going to draw a picture of something that we are thankful for with a pencil on this paper. (Be sure to have an example of your own to show them.) We are going to color it in with this rice. For each piece of rice that is on your paper, that can represent how many things that you could thank God for in your life. Think about that as you glue these on your paper.

- Have them draw a picture of something that they are thankful for in their life.
- Trace the part with glue where they want to put one color of rice.
- Add rice to that section, shake off the extra pieces. Use the rice like you use glitter.
- Then, begin the next section that will be the same color to add glue to it.
- Continue this until your picture is complete.

Be sure to have the students be responsible to clean up their area after they are done.

WEEK 2 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Nation Ball

MATERIALS: Two large rubber balls

OBJECT: To get all of the players on the opposing team out of the game.

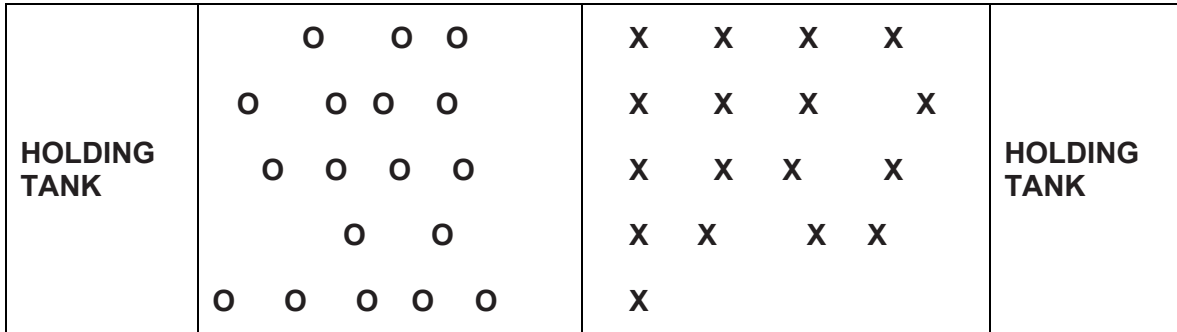
SETUP:

- Divide group into your two teams. (Great game for teaching team work and family unity.)
- Each team is given an equal amount of space on a cement or hardtop surface.
- All but one member of the team stands in their space.
- The extra player serves as goalie, he/she is the only one that can leave the space to run after a ball.
- The goalie stands behind the opposing team.

TO PLAY:

- To begin, one ball is given to each team. (Another way to start, is to have all the students line up on their back line and place the balls on the center line. When the leader says “Go!,” they run to the center and try to get the balls to be able to throw at the opposing team.)
- When the signal is given, the person holding the ball throws it, trying to hit an opposing player below the waist.
- If the player is hit, he/she must go to the holding tank.
- If a child is hit by a ball above the waist, he does not go to the holding tank. The person who threw the ball goes to the holding tank.
- If the opposing player catches the ball, thrown at him one of his teammates may come out of the holding tank. If no one is in the holding tank at that point, the person who threw the ball is out.
- If a player steps over the center line when throwing the ball, whatever the ball did, does not count. Players must stay behind the center line.
- Players in a holding tank come out in the order in which they entered the holding tank. (This is an important rule!)
- Make sure the players that are leaders at your center are not pushing their way to the front of the line.)
- A fun variation of this game is to play for a while, then add in more balls. It is also fun to have different kinds of balls, different weights, sizes and materials.

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving



Be a model for the students by encouraging them to support their fellow teammates. If you see one team beginning to loose heart or get behind, find someone to help you start his or her team cheer. Help them focus on their team spirit instead of winning. Help them to be thankful for a chance to play a game with their friends.

This is an important reason why the staff need to play on the teams. They need to watch you obey the rules. How do you respond when you get out? How do you respond when your team starts to loose? They need real life examples and you are the ones God has placed in their life to be just that for them!!

DAY TWO: Sheep Across The River

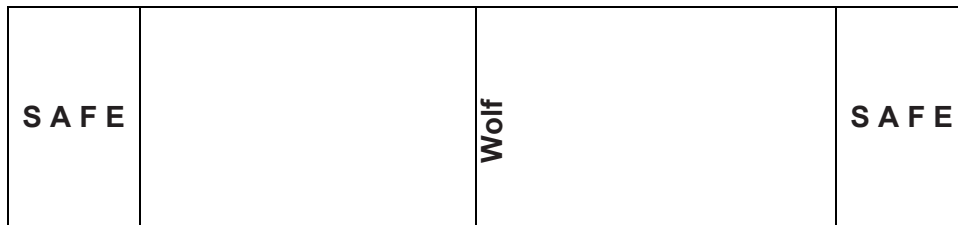
MATERIALS: None, unless you need something for boundaries

OBJECT: To be the last “sheep” left that the wolf did not catch.

This is one of our kids favorites! It is an easy game to do at the last minute if you haven’t had time to plan. Keep this one in the back of your mind!!

SET-UP:

To begin, make a boundary like the one shown below.



- Choose one student to be the wolf. They stand in the middle of the center line.
- All the other students stand on one line, preparing to run.

TO PLAY

- When the wolf yells, “SHEEP ACROSS THE RIVER” all the students try to run from the side they are standing on, to the safety of the other boundary line, like the “shore”.
- If the wolf touches them, they have to freeze in the exact spot where they were touched. Then they put their arms straight out to their side. They can not move at all.
- Once all the players have either reached the other side or are frozen in the middle, the wolf turns to face the sheep, and yells again, “SHEEP ACROSS THE RIVER.”
- This time, if the wolf touches the sheep they are out, but if the sheep run into an already tagged player, they are also out. The players who are frozen, are not supposed to try to tag the sheep who are running by, they are just supposed to be obstacles for the others to try to get through.
- Continue to play until there is only one player left. They are the wolf in the next game.
- If there are students who are still at the starting line after almost everyone has run across to the other side, count to ten out loud. If they do not run by the time you finish counting, they are out and must find a place on the field to stand and freeze with their arms out.
- Many times, we had two players be the wolf. The game goes much faster and more students get the chance to be the wolf. We tried to select the last girl and the last boy so that each would get a chance.

DEBRIEF:

Talk to the students about how it felt to get tagged early in the game and have to stand there the whole game with their arms stretched out.

- 1) **Did your arms get tired?**
- 2) **Did you wish you could have been back in the game?**
- 3) **What about when you were the wolf or one of the last sheep?**
- 4) **Weren't you thankful that all the other players were doing what they were supposed to be doing so that the game would work right?** The game would not have been very fun if no one followed the rules.
- 5) **Who are the people that followed the rules the best?** We should thank them! They made the game fun!

DAY THREE: Catch Me If You Can

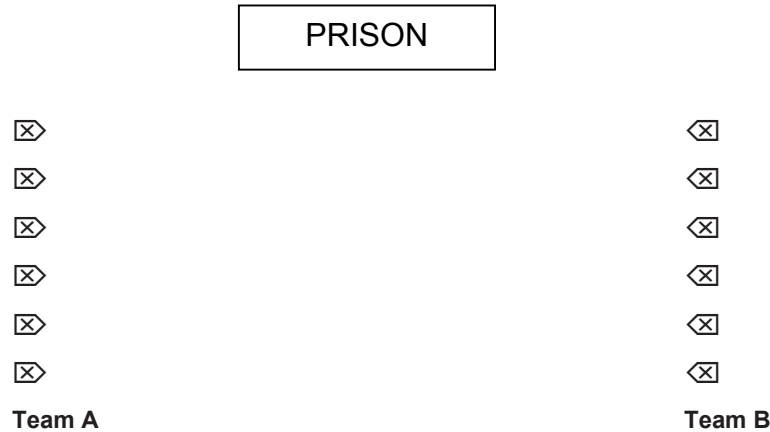
MATERIALS: 2 ropes behind which each team stands. Added ropes may be needed to designate playing areas.

OBJECT: To be the team with the most players in your line by the end of the playing time.

Week 2 – The Magnitude of Thanksgiving

SET-UP

- Children are placed in their two teams.
- The two teams stand in two lines facing each other, about 60 ft. apart.



TO PLAY

- The leader touches one player on Team A to be the first charger.
- All the players on Team B stand behind their line with their right hands out over the line.
- Team A charger runs across the playing field and tags the hand of a player on Team B.
- The Team B player chases the charger across the field.
- If the charger is tagged, he must go to prison and the player on Team B is the next charger.
- If the charger makes it across his line safely, the entire A Team chases the player from Team B back.
- If Team B player makes it back across her line safely, the Team B charger chooses a player from their team to be the next charger.
- If Team B player does not make it back safely, she must go to prison. Prisons hold players from both teams. After the Team B person goes to prison, Team A returns to their line and sends out another charger.
- When an entire team gets to run, some may divert and let their prisoners out. To be let out of prison, a prisoner must be tagged and then do 15 jumping jacks.
- The winning team is the team that has the most players on their line at the end of the time.

DISCUSSION:

This is a great game to observe if children will follow the rules or if they do not have the self-control. Concentrate on team spirit here. Start the students cheering for their fellow teammates! Remind them that they get more points for spirit that they do winning!

DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun play equipment that you have

Let the students have fun today with the things that you have in the closet that they don't always get to play with at the center. Remind them that this time is a privilege and that they are rewarded for a good week of team spirit and following the rules. Sometimes recreation can be one of the hardest times to try and organize. Give them the incentive of free play to motivate them to listen through out the week.

WHO IS THANKFUL?: WEEK 3

WEEK 3 – BIBLE CLUB

LESSON AIM: The child will understand and can identify who some thankful people are.

SCRIPTURE: John 6:1-13

MEMORY VERSE: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 5:16-18

The Feeding Of The 5,000

In this story, Jesus gives his disciples a lesson that they will never forget. This story is the only event that is recorded in all four gospels besides the resurrection. This gives us some idea of its importance. Here, Jesus wanted to meet the needs of the followers around him because his heart of compassion went out to them.

The first thing he did was ask Philip if they could get food. Philip was from Bethsaida, which was the next neighboring city, so he would know about local sources. John also points out that Jesus did this to *test* Philip. Jesus' test was to stretch his faith, not to tempt him to do evil. Philip's response was proof that there was no way humanly that the bread could be acquired. Even if they could get it, it would cost 200 denarii, which was eight months wages. This was much more than they had!

Andrew went into the crowd to see what was available. He found a boy with 5 barley loaves and 2 fishes. In the Old Testament, the prophet Elisha had fed 100 men with 20 loaves. He had prophesied of one that would come later who would do greater things than he. The Bible says there were 5,000 men, but these men had women and children with them. So, they at least had 10,000 mouths to feed. This was the one Elisha prophesied about in the Old Testament.

The miracle came when Jesus blessed the food. They were thankful to God for what they had, even though it seemed like nothing. Then, Jesus did the miracle that fed all of them and had 12 baskets left over.

This is what we want the students to see in this story. We want them to see that as they are thankful in the small things, Jesus will multiply it into more than they could ever hope for or imagine.

**Discipleship
Tip**

DISCIPLESHIP TIP: When you have a chance to talk one-on-one with a student, ask them in what area do they think that God is not providing for them. As they share it, think of something that they can thank God for in that situation. It may be small, but there should be something. Share something with them that is the same way for you.

Challenge each other to thank God for it every day for a week and see what happens!

Hook

MATERIALS: A large quantity of a snack that is plain (saltine crackers, raisins, or salad without dressing)

PURPOSE: To see what kind of things thankful people do in day-to-day situations.

Today's hook will take place during snack time as it did in week one. Before this unit is all over, you should never hear a child complaining about a snack. They will know that it could be a lesson!

- For the snack, serve something that is plain or you know that they won't be particularly fond of eating. If you can, get something donated for snack today. If you know someone who has access to a food bank or something like that it would be perfect for today. Sometimes the things that you might get from a food bank would be unusual and not necessarily exciting.
- If you have to buy it, get something that is in bulk that you can get for a very cheap price. Something like saltine crackers, raisins, or salad without dressing.
- When they come in to the Center, have one staff that does not usually work on snack preparation begin complaining about the snack. If you make a huge scene, they will probably guess that you are trying to prove a point. If you act like you usually do, but with a little complaining added, they might fall for it. The staff who is complaining might sit down at one table and softly whisper, "Man, I can't believe Bill (the person in charge of snack) got this, I hope we don't have to eat this again. This is not that good. I wish we had something to go with it." If you have students sitting at different tables, either have the staff move around and complain at different tables or have one staff at each table do the complaining.
- The next step is to try to get people agreeing with you. The complaining staff might say, "Don't you guys think this is boring. Don't you think we got cheated today?"

Depending on how crazy your snack time is, you can either do this next section at the end of snack or at the first of Bible Club.

- The person who set up the snack says, "This snack that we had today is a blessing from God. Did you guys now that? We had some nice person donate this for our snack today!" or "We got this snack for such a good price. I wasn't sure if we had enough money for anything, but God provided this to be on sale and we had just enough money! We need to be thankful for what God provided for us today."
- Then, the complaining staff could say out loud so that everyone can hear, "I don't really see why we have to be so thankful when it's not even that good. This was probably one of the worst snacks we've had." Bill would then ask the other kids, "Why do we have to be thankful for a snack like today's?" Give the children a chance to answer. See where they are in their learning about thankfulness.

Then say, "Today in BIBLE CLUB we are going to see some people who watched Jesus give thanks for something that they weren't that thankful for either. The exciting part of this story is what happened when they gave thanks!"

NEW!

Madame Blueberry

You have the option of showing the **Veggie Tales** video entitled, Madame Blueberry. This video would be a good summary of the lessons that they have learned on thankfulness. It focuses on being content with what you have.

Bible Story

NEW!

This Bible story is designed for telling the youngest children the Bible story (K-2)

MATERIALS: A basket with two large napkins, small paper cups, oyster crackers, and fish shaped crackers.

SET UP: Put five oyster crackers and two fish shaped crackers in one paper cup. Line the basket with one of the napkins and pour the rest of the fish and oyster crackers in the basket. Place the second napkin on top of the crackers and arrange it so that the basket looks empty.

Gather the children in the circle and tell them the story of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 from Matthew 14: 13-21

Jesus had been talking to a large crowd of people and healing the sick people that had been coming to him all day and now it was getting late. One of Jesus' disciples came to Him and said, "Jesus, it is getting late and there is nothing nearby, so let the people go so that they can get something to eat. Jesus said, "They don't need to go away. You give them some thing to eat." But His disciple said, "We have only five loaves and two fish." (Give one child the paper cup with the crackers.) So Jesus told them to bring them to Him. (Have the child empty his or her cup into the basket. Show the children the basket with the crackers in it and ask if they think it is enough to feed all the children in the entire class) He told everyone to sit down on the grass. He took the loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. (as you are talking, move aside a corner of the napkin without the children seeing what you are doing and fill each of the children's cups with crackers.) Then He gave them to His disciples and the disciples gave them to the people. They ate until no one was hungry, and then the disciples picked up twelve baskets full of leftovers. The number of people who ate that day was 5,000 men plus their women and children.

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Bible Story For older children

MATERIALS: Costumes for Jesus, Andrew and Philip; a lunch box or lunch bag; signs that divide up the crowd (example: 1,000 men - 5 of these, 1,000 women and children- 4 of these); something to represent five loaves of bread, (a real loaf if you want); two fish.(you probably don't want real fish); special treat to give out for those who were thankful during snack.

BEFORE BIBLE CLUB:

This week for the Bible Story, act out the story in the form of a skit. Think about the amount of children you have in your Center and try to use all of the students in this skit.

CHARACTERS NEEDED: Jesus, Andrew, Phillip, the boy with the loaves and fishes

Parts to divide up so all your students can be involved:

A Narrator

5,000 men in the crowd

The women and children that were with them

For the main characters, you want to have something that sets them apart from the others -- something as simple as using a blanket to be their robe. Then make a small sign that might say "1,000 men" and gather two or three boys together to hold that sign. If everyone is an active part of the story they will listen better. (hopefully!)

The Bible says that there were 5,000 men present. We don't know how many women and children were there but there must have been quite a few. Be sure and tell the students things like this when they are acting it out.

A narrator can read this script and they can act it out as the narrator reads.

Example: The narrator says: *Andrew went and looked for any thing that he could find in the crowd to feed the people.* The narrator pauses until the student who is playing the part of Andrew can act out the last sentence.

DURING BIBLE CLUB:

Remember: If you didn't already talk about the need to be thankful after snack, now is the time!

Begin BIBLE CLUB by assigning the parts of the story. Place everyone where they need to go. The characters who are the "crowd" should stand where they would normally sit to hear a Bible story for the beginning of the story until they are told in the story to sit down. In the script, the characters will be in bold and their actions will be in *italics*.

THE SCRIPT FOR BIBLE CLUB

Narrator: Welcome ladies and gentleman. (Looking out over at a pretend audience, since all the students are involved)

Today's story is going to be great! Today, our characters are Jesus of course, could you *wave to the crowd* please? Philip and Andrew, two of Jesus' disciples and a large crowd of people.

So, let's get on with the story!

One day, Jesus had been *teaching* and a large crowd *had gathered*. Jesus *went up onto a mountain and sat down with his disciples*. He looked at the large crowd that *was coming closer and closer to him* and he said, "*Philip, where am I going to buy enough bread so that these people may eat.*"

He was saying this so that he could see what Philip would do. So Philip said, "*If we had \$2,000 dollars, we couldn't buy enough bread for all these people, even if they just got a bite.*"

One of the other disciples, Andrew, *went out into the crowd* to see what food they had there. When *he came back, he had a young man with him*. Andrew said, "*This young man here has 5 barley loaves and two fish, but these will never feed that huge crowd!*"

Jesus said, "*Have the people sit down so that we can count them.*"

Then Jesus *took the loaves, and having given thanks to God, he broke the bread*.

Now this is when the amazing part happens. Jesus and his disciples *passed out the food*. Everyone *got as much as they wanted*. When they were all full, Jesus said, "*Gather up the left over food so that nothing will be lost.*"

So they *gathered up the food and filled twelve baskets full of leftovers from the 5 barley loaves*.

Can you believe that? Jesus showed them that he could provide for them. He gave thanks to God when it didn't seem like there was much to be thankful for in that situation. It was like the snack today. You didn't want to give thanks because it wasn't very good or what you wanted. But, Jesus says to give thanks in everything. Just like our memory verse says.

So, for those of you that the staff saw today being thankful anyway, we have a special treat for you because you made God happy!

Pass out candy or treat and have them break up into groups for the discussion question.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

F A C T

Who was thankful in this story? *Jesus*

What did Philip say when Jesus asked him how they could feed all these people? *There was no way that they could because there wasn't enough money.*

What happened in the story when Jesus gave thanks? *God blessed them and there was enough for everyone.*

F A I T H

When Philip answered Jesus question about where to get the food to feed the people, who was Philip depending on? *He was depending on people and not God.*

What do you think Andrew thought Jesus would do with the 5 loaves and 2 fish? *He would see that there us not enough to eat.*

Week 3 – Who is Thankful?

Open your Bible to Philippians 4:19. Can someone read this for us?

What things does it say that God will supply us? *Our needs* **How many of our needs?**
All of them **Does he have enough money to pay for them?** *Yes! He has riches!*

Does anyone know the memory verse? **What things does it say to give thanks for?**
Everything **So, does this include things that aren't good or only good things?** *All things
good and bad*

F U L L F I L L M E N T

Why would we want to give thanks for things that are not good? *God uses these things to
see how we will respond, if we will do what he has taught us or if we will do the thing that we
want to do.*

Look in your Bible and find James 1: 2-3. James is right after Hebrews in the New Testament.

What does it say about the trials that we face? *Be happy when they come, give thanks,
because these things are the testing of our faith.*

Do you have something in your life that you don't think that you can thank God for? Let's
think of something about that situation that we can pray and thank God for. **Does anyone
want to share theirs so that we can help you think of something to be thankful for?**
Remember if we thank God we give him the chance to be in control. We can see what He will
do with the problem when we chose to obey him.

Have a time of prayer with the students and thank God for the things that some shared and
others couldn't share. Be sure to respect their boundaries they have made. Don't push them to
share anything that they are not ready to share.

WEEK 3 - SKITS

Skit #1

CHARACTERS: Bobby, Reuben

SCENE: Reuben and Bobby are walking down the street talking about the day that they had at school while they eat an ice cream cone.

Reuben: *(as he is pretending to eat an ice cream and walking beside Bobby)* Did you have time to write down all those homework assignments from the board in Mrs. Washington's class.

Bobby: *(also eating ice cream and walking)* Can you believe her? She thinks that is the only class that we have! We have to do homework in other subjects too!

Reuben: She doesn't explain it very well either, she just wants us to learn everything on our own!

Bobby: I am going to see if I can get another teacher. I can't stand her.

As they are walking, they pretend to see an imaginary sign. They both stop to read it. They both pause and look at each other.

Reuben: Man, I never thought about that before.

Bobby: So what does it mean exactly.

Reuben: Well the sign says: "I used to complain about not having any shoes until I saw a man with no feet." I guess it is helping you to realize whatever you are complaining about is probably not as bad as you think it is.

Bobby: Yeah, we are eating ice cream and getting to hang out with each other. I guess we should just be thankful just for that.

Reuben: And here we are complaining about our teacher, at least we can go to school and learn. I guess it could be worse, huh?

Bobby: Yeah, you are right. I guess we should stop griping!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What did the sign say? *I used to complain about not having shoes until I saw a man with no feet.*

What was the point of the sign? *We complain about things that we think are so bad, but many people have it much worse than we do.*

What had the boys been doing when they read the sign? *Complaining about their teacher.*

Can anyone think of something that the boys could be thankful for besides some of the things that they mentioned already? *A mind to think, healthy bodies to go to school, clothes to wear to school, etc.*

Skit #2

CHARACTERS: Maria, LaTasha, Mom

SCENE: Maria and LaTasha are at Maria's house watching the academy awards on TV. Maria's mom is there to help them figure out what is happening.

Maria: Look at that lady, Mom, (*pointing at the imaginary TV*) when they called her name she started crying? Was there something sad?

Mom: No, Maria. Many times when people get these awards they are so thankful that they start to cry.

LaTasha: That doesn't really make sense to me. I guess I never had anything to be that thankful for.

Mom: I don't know LaTasha, I bet you have you just can't understand now how thankful that you should be.

Maria: Mom, I remember when some people ask Jesus into their heart at church they start crying - is that why?

Mom: Wow, Maria that is a very good example! Yes, they cry for many reasons and one of the reasons could be that they found out how much God could love them no matter what they have done. They are so happy and thankful that they start to cry.

LaTasha: Well, I guess I have had something to be that happy over because I asked Jesus into my heart before, but I didn't cry.

Mom: Let me ask you this question. What if you bought one ticket to the lottery and you won. Let's say you won 3 million dollars. Do you think you would be thankful?

LaTasha: Yeah! There is no doubt about that!

Mom: Well, you really should be more excited about Jesus dying for your sins than winning the lottery!

LaTasha: Come on! Are you serious?

Mom: Definitely, you can spend the money, someone could even steal the money, and when it is gone it is gone. But your salvation is eternal. Sometimes it is hard to understand how great it is, but it really is great.

LaTasha and Maria: I guess we do have a lot to be thankful for! We even had more to be thankful for than the people on the academy awards, huh?

Mom: I think you guys are really catching on!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why do people cry sometimes when the situation seems to be happy and not sad?
Because they are thankful.

Is there anything that you have been that thankful for before?

Do you know of something now that you have that you have to be that thankful for? *Your salvation!*

WEEK 3 - MEMORY VERSE

SCRIPTURE: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Draw A Verse

OBJECT: To be the team to obtain the most points by saying the verse according to the directions drawn from the bag.

MATERIALS: Paper bag, small pieces of paper with instructions, a copy of the verse for each child, facial tissue.

- Have each team stand in a line as if they are getting ready for a relay.
- Give the first player in each line a facial tissue.
- When the leader says “GO,” each player tries to be the one to keep the facial tissue in the air the longest just by blowing on it.
- The player to keep the facial tissue up the longest gets to attempt to make points for his/her team by drawing an instruction from the bag.
- Suggested instructions: Quote the whole verse (5 points); Quote the reference (1 point); Quote the first 3 words (1 point) Quote the first 10 words (3 points); Explain the meaning of the verse (4 points).
- If the player is able to do as the instructions ask, his/her team receives the points stated on the instructions.
- Team members may be studying the verse while they wait their turn.

WEEK 3 - PRACTICAL LIVING

NEW!

Thankfulness Circle

MATERIALS: None

Gather children together in a circle. If your group is larger than eight, make more than one circle. Have the first child tell something that he or she is thankful for. Try to encourage them to say things that they all can be thankful for like, family, church, food, home, etc. So if the first child says, "I am thankful for *my family*." The second child could say, "I am thankful for my family *and my church*." The third child would say, "I am thankful for my *wonderful* family and my church. Go around the entire circle with each child adding a new detail. Give each child a chance to add something to the first thanks.

Read Colossians 2:6-7 aloud. Say: **When we hear someone giving thanks, it reminds us to be thankful too. Letting one another hear us being thankful is a way to strengthen each other in the faith that we share. By the time we got to the last person in our circle, we truly were overflowing with thankfulness.**

- 1) **Which would you rather live with, criticism that grows with each person, or thankfulness that grows with each person? Why?**
- 2) **How could you start an atmosphere of thankfulness?**
- 3) **Where can you start an atmosphere of thankfulness?**
- 4) **When can you start an atmosphere of thankfulness?**
- 5) **How would our neighborhood or community be different if we had an atmosphere of thankfulness?**

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OR, you may do the following . . .

Table Etiquette

MATERIALS: Items that you would use to set a table for a formal dinner: 2 knives, 2 forks (1 smaller and 1 larger if possible), 1 spoon, 1 napkin, 1 dinner plate, 1 glass and 1 bread or salad plate. Have one set per child if possible, or pair the children up as you need to do so. (These sets don't have to be real dishes; it could be paper plates and plastic wear. They just need to know where it all goes)

This practical living is designed to teach them manners at a dinner table or a formal dinner. You can tie this into the theme this week by telling them, “**Because we have so much to thank God for, we have a large feast and celebration to give God thanks. The magnitude designed for this meal reflects the magnitude of our thankfulness.**

This does not mean if we don’t have much food for thanksgiving we are not thankful, it only means that historically it is a big meal because we do have a great deal to be thankful for everyday!”

This is a step-by-step guide to leading them in the manners of a meal.

- Have them begin by standing behind the chair that they plan to sit in and wait for the instructions from you.
- Begin by telling them that if they come in to sit down at a table, the men should always help the ladies sit down first and they can sit down afterwards.
- After they are seated, explain that a host is the person that is giving the party. The person whose house the dinner is at or the person that is paying for the meal. If it is a woman, she is called a hostess.
- If they sit down at the table and it is time to eat, pray first. Wait for the host to pray or to lead the prayer. Watch to see if the host wants you to join hands or not. It is best to let them decide what everyone should do.

Teacher Tip: If you can put all the things that they will need into a bag, that would be great - assuming that these things are not real of course. You might even use real silverware and paper dishes.

- Have them then set their place for dinner. If they are in pairs, have them choose one person to set the silverware and the other to set the dishes and the glass. They set the place setting up between them.
 - Begin setting the place with the **dinner plate**. It goes right in front of the chair, one inch from the edge of the table.
 - Next, the largest fork goes closest to the dinner plate on the left hand side. (If both forks are the same size tell them to imagine.) This is the **dinner fork**.
 - The smaller fork goes beside the dinner fork, farther left. This is the **salad fork**. Line all silverware placed on the table up by the base of the handle. (The bottom of all the utensils should be even.)
 - The **napkin** goes on the center of the dinner plate unless food is already on the plate. Then, it would go to the left of all the forks, not under.
 - There can be three knives. Most of the time there will be no more than two. Have them use one for butter and the other as a dinner knife. The **dinner knife** goes closest to the dinner plate on the right. We will place the butter knife in a minute.
 - The **salad knife** is the knife next to the dinner knife. You may use it to cut your lettuce if it is too big or for anything that is larger than bite size.
 - The **spoon** if for soup. It is placed to the right of the knife.

Week 3 – Who is Thankful?

- Now place the **bread plate** up and to the left of the dinner plate. (If the dinner plate were a clock, the bread plate would be at 11 o'clock.)
- The **glass** then goes up and to the right of the dinner plate. (about at 2 o'clock.)
- The **butter knife** is placed laying diagonally on the top right edge of the plate. The blade should be facing towards the guest. (The blade might rest at 11 o'clock and the handle at 3 o'clock.)

Now, walk around and check the settings to see how they did. Help them make adjustments where they need to do so. If you can, show them an example of what it should look like. Do not do this before. This exercise is great for their oral listening skills!!

Now for the manners! Ask them if they can tell you some that they know so that they don't have to just sit and listen. Have a board or a large sheet of paper ready so that you can write down the things that they say and you add to the list.

Make sure all of these are included:

- You know when to begin the dinner when the host puts his napkin in his lap, then follow their example and put yours in your lap.
- Wait until everyone has their food before you begin eating unless someone tells you otherwise.
- No elbows on the table.
- Have good posture.
- Put your hands in your lap when you are not eating.
- Don't talk with your mouth full.
- Don't reach across anyone's plate or glass if you need something, ask someone to pass it.

For more information on manners, you should consult your local library for information concerning manners and etiquette. These are a few books that I would recommend.

Please feel free to check them out at the library for more information:

Charlotte Ford's Book of Modern Manners, Simon and Schuster Publishers, 1980, p.121-132.

Emily Post's Etiquette 15th Edition, 1992, p.428-431.

Amy Vanderbilt's Complete Book of Etiquette, by Nancy Tuckerman and Nancy Dunnan, 1978, p.176-181

WEEK 3 - READ-A-LOUD

“The Story of Augustus, Who Would Not Have Any Soup”

By Heinrich Hoffmann; *The Book of Virtues* p. 45

SUMMARY: This is a short little poem about a boy who was happy and healthy and always ate what he was given without complaining. Then one day, he refused to eat his soup. He got picky about what he was eating. Over the next few days, he continued to refuse and he got angrier and angrier until finally on the fifth day he died. It is obviously a little blown out of proportion but it shows that we need to be thankful for whatever we have.

Teacher Tip: The words or phrases written in italics are meant for you to read silently, the rest is written so that you will know what to say to the students.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS:

- 1) What food do you like the least?
- 2) Is there something that you got tired of because you ate it too much?
- 3) Do you think if we had a dinner one night at the center and we served that food to you could you still pray and thank God for the food?

The little boy in this story got really tired of something too. Listen and see what happened to him.

LISTENING QUESTIONS:

What I am going to read today is only a short poem so I am going to read it through a few times and each time you can listen for different things. The first time this is what I want you to listen for:

- 1) **What was the boy sick of eating?** *Soup*
- 2) **What did he do when he didn't want to eat?** *He screamed, "Take the soup away!"*
- 3) **What happened to him at the end?** *He died*

After you discuss the answers to the listening questions ask:

- 1) **Was anyone surprised at that ending?**
- 2) **What did you think might happen?**

Week 3 – Who is Thankful?

I am going to read the story again and I am going to stop in a certain place and we are going to write a new ending to the story. *(Stop at the end of page 45)*

Have the children think of something else that could have happened to him.

Examples: His parents punished him, an ice cream truck showed up at his door and told him he could have all the ice cream he wanted and he got sick on ice cream, he decided to eat his soup and it wasn't so bad.

You guys did great thinking of a new ending. Now I am only going to read the first part and you are going to help me change the story to show what Jesus would want him to do. *(Read the first paragraph and the first line of the second paragraph. Stop there and let them tell you what he should have done.)*

POST READING QUESTIONS:

- 1) **Remember in Bible Club this week how Jesus thanked God for the 5 loaves and the 2 fish? Can anyone tell me what happened when Jesus gave thanks?** *(God blessed the meal and there was enough for everyone.)*
- 2) **Do you think that the second ending we wrote where the boy did the right thing would be something you could do the next time you don't like something?**

WEEK 3 - CRAFTS

✂ Book Covers

MATERIALS: At least one large brown grocery store bag for each child, markers, masking tape, scissors, and stickers.

The students need to bring a school text book if they can.

This craft will be making book covers. The students will learn to appreciate the things that they already have and take care of them. Tell the students this at the beginning of Craft time.

You can do the few beginning cuts for them before hand if you want or they can do the whole thing. Either way it should work fine. If some of the little kids don't have a text book, give them a book from the center that they could cover and keep in their classroom. This will help the books at the Center to be protected.

- Begin by opening the bag and cutting one corner of the bag from the opening to the bottom.
- Then, cut along the edge of the bottom of the bag and cut the bottom completely out. This should leave one large piece of brown paper.
- If the bag has words on it, you don't want those to show, so lay the bag down writing side up and lay the book in the center of the paper.
- Fold the paper toward the book at the top and bottom of the book to make a crease.
- Remove the book and fold the bag on that crease.
- Put the book back in the middle of the bag. Now, the bag should be the same size as the book from top to bottom.
- Standing the book on its binding, with pages facing you, wrap the paper around the book like a taco shell and fold the extra ends of the bag inside the cover to match the width of the book's cover.
- Now, tape the cover together on the ends so that the cover is firmly wrapped around the book.
- If this seems difficult, look at another book you have covered or ask the students, they can probably tell you.

Then, let the students decorate their book covers. They can use markers and stickers. They might want to write their memory verse on the cover to remind them to be thankful! Let them be creative and design their own things!

WEEK 3 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Balloon Stomp

MATERIALS: A balloon for each player and piece of string for each player.

OBJECT: To be the team to have at least one balloon still unstomped.

SET-UP

- Divide the group into their two teams.
- Give each player a balloon to blow up and a piece of string with which to tie the balloon to his/her ankle.

TO PLAY

- When the leader says, “Go,” the players attempt to stomp as many of the opposing player’s balloons as possible, while trying to protect his/her own balloon.
- Those whose balloons have been stomped should step aside to watch and cheer the survivors on their team. Be sure to encourage them that they are an important part of the team spirit!
- The team who has the last player with an unstomped balloon is the winner.

OBSERVE

Do the children whose balloons get stomped stay and cheer on their teammates? Their cheering may be the very thing that spurs their team on to victory.

DISCUSSION:

Ask the players that were left at the last if they heard any cheering their team on to victory? How did that feel? The player who cheered deserves to be thanked for their support and sportsmanship.

DAY TWO: Move Ahead, Fall Back

MATERIALS: A chair for each child

SET-UP

- Place the chairs in a circle with the seats turned to the inside of the circle
- The children sit in the chairs.

TO PLAY

- An adult asks the questions listed below.
- The children respond according to the directions.
- Children will eventually be sitting on top of each other (that’s what makes the game fun!)

GAME QUESTIONS

- 1) Move ahead one seat if you brushed your teeth this morning.
- 2) Move ahead two seats if you went to school today.
- 3) Move back three seats if you didn't brush your teeth this morning.
- 4) Move ahead one seat if you got an "A" in reading on your last report card.
- 5) Move back two seats if you didn't eat breakfast this morning
- 6) Move ahead one seat if you've eaten a piece of fruit today.
- 7) Move ahead two seats if you've eaten a vegetable today.
- 8) Move back two seats if you didn't turn in homework that was due today.
- 9) Move back five seats if you called someone a name today.
- 10) Move forward five seats if you thanked someone today.
- 11) Move ahead four seats if you told your Mom you loved her this morning.
- 12) Move ahead three seats if you washed your hands before lunch today.
- 13) Move ahead six seats if you hugged your S.A.Y. Yes![®] staff today.
- 14) Move back three seats if you belched loudly today.
- 15) Move ahead ten seats if you put a napkin in your lap at lunch today.
- 16) Move back three seats if you picked your nose today.
- 17) Move ahead ten seats if you prayed to thank God for your lunch today before you ate.
- 18) Move back one seat if you didn't respect your teacher today by something that you said.
- 19) Move ahead eight seats if you read your bible before bed last night.
- 20) Move back five seats if you drank a soda yesterday.

Make up your own questions to fit the children at your S.A.Y. Yes![®] Center

DISCUSSION:

After you play the game, talk about the importance of truth if the game is going to be fun. By being truthful in the game we can laugh together!

You may want to play for a while, then stop and talk about the importance of truth, then play some more. Are the children able to laugh at themselves? Are they able to laugh with someone without putting that person down?

Explain the importance of allowing others to speak truth to us without us condemning the person (such as in a confession of sin). This does not mean we condone the sin, but we support the person in his/her attempt to grow.

We are all more apt to grow if we know we can be honest with one another without the fear of rejection. *Reject my sin but please don't reject me.*

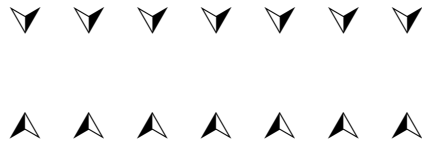
Help the students see that having a place where they know they can share their emotions is an important thing to be thankful for in their life. They must learn that everyone deserves this safe place, so if their laughter makes someone else feel bad, they are taking away the safe place from them. Make them aware of this and have them apologize if there is a need to restore trust and safety at the center.

DAY THREE: Red Rover, Red Rover

MATERIALS: None, unless boundary markers are needed.

SET-UP

- Players get to their two teams facing each other.
- Stand about two yards from each other. The closer the teams are, the safer this game is. They have less space to gain momentum.



TO PLAY

- Each team holds hands.
- A coin is flipped to see what team will go first.
- The team can decide together who they want from the other team to come over. Try to monitor the deciding process, so it doesn't take more than ten seconds. You might want to count out loud.
- Then, Team #1 all together calls out "Red Rover, Red Rover send Laticia over"
- Laticia, then runs across as hard as she can and tries to break through the opposing line where it is the weakest.
- If Laticia breaks through the line, she may choose two players to return with her to her team. (If your group is small, you might want her to only choose one player and then the game will last longer.)
- If Laticia is not able to break through the line, she must remain on the opposing team.
- The winning team is the one with the most players at the end of the time of play.
- The teams players will get mixed up on this game. The team that should be credited with the win for the competition points should be the team that makes up the most members of the winning team, regardless of what side they were on at the beginning the game.

OBSERVE

How did the children play? Did they hold as tight as possible even when it was one of **their** teammates coming at them?

DISCUSSION:

What can they be thankful about in this game?

What players should they thank for making it a good game either by their attitude or by their sportsmanship?

DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun equipment that you have at the center.

This is the time that you can give your students the freedom to play a game on their own. Watch and see the kinds of games that they play. See if they are repeating any of the games that you have played before during recreation.

Be sure and thank the children they are playing with good sportsmanship, so that you can be a model of what it means to be thankful. Watch to see if there is anyone else being appreciative to their fellow teammates and give them some encouragement too! They will imitate whatever you do. Be sure you are doing things worth imitating!

HOW CAN I BE THANKFUL?: WEEK 4

WEEK 4 – BIBLE CLUB

- LESSON AIM:** The child will understand how they can be thankful.
- SCRIPTURE:** 1 Samuel 1:1-20
- MEMORY VERSE:** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Hannah's Vow To God

This story is a story of abounding thankfulness to God. Hannah was one wife of a man that had two wives. She was the beloved wife, but she was barren. In those days, barrenness was looked upon as a curse from God. Hebrew men were very much in fear of not having a son to carry on their name. So, if their wife was barren, they would take another wife with which to have children.

Peninnah was the other wife and she would mock Hannah for being barren. One day on their yearly trip to the house of the Lord, Hannah made a vow to God that if he would allow her to bare a son, then she would give him back to the Lord all the days of his life and a razor would never come to his head. The vow she made here is the vow of the Nazarite, from Numbers 6:1-8. This was the same vow that Samson's parents made to the angel of the Lord before he was born.

When Hannah arrived home, she conceived and in due time she bore a son. She named him Samuel. The literal meaning of the name is "His name is God,"¹ but she understood it to mean, "Because I have asked the Lord for him."

Hannah fulfilled her promise to God. It was an act of thankfulness to her Savior who saved her from the deep pain of having an empty womb.

God saw her heart. Not only did Samuel grow up to be a man that was mightily used by God, but Hannah had three more sons and two daughters after giving birth to Samuel.

We want our students to see that receiving things that we want or desire merits an attitude of thankfulness. We don't see this in today's youth. They seem to have an "I deserve it!" mentality. The way our kids can be salt and light to the world is by being different. We need to show them what that is!

**Discipleship
Tip**

DISCIPLESHIP TIP: This week have the students think of some way they can express their thankfulness to someone important to them. This would be a great time to take them out to get a coke and have them write a letter or think of some creative way to thank some one. Thank someone along with them and share with them who it is and why you want to thank them. This way they can know that this is something everyone should be doing!

Hook

MATERIALS: Things that you might need for a Thanksgiving party, possibly a Pizza party, an ice cream party, a popcorn party or what ever kind of Thanksgiving celebration you know your kids would like.

This week's hook deals once again with food! It seems that kids true flesh comes out when food is at stake. This week you are probably getting ready for turkey dinners and family events. Don't neglect this season as a teaching opportunity for your students. They need to learn that the reason for this season is to give thanks and what does their role in that look like?

As we have worked with kids and talked to others about their students at the youth center, there seems to be a time as staff, when everyone wants to throw in the towel. You try to do something fun for the students, have a party, and they get greedy and ruin the whole thing. You walk away frustrated that your gift turned into a right that they demanded.

Hopefully, this lesson will help them at least think twice the next time!

Today, set aside some extra time for this hook. My guess is your students are pretty wired because of the upcoming holiday and it may be hard to get anything else done anyway. **Plan a party for your kids today that they have done nothing special to deserve, except be themselves.** You can take this as far as you want or as simple as you want. The bigger the event, the more chance you will have to see their true selves come out!!

OBJECT OF THE PARTY:

- Have an atmosphere of fun.
- Make whatever you are serving as equal proportionally as possible. (usually we try this, for this hook, put a little extra effort into that part for the lesson learned here.)
- Give them a somewhat small portion to start off with to see their appreciation for something that they didn't even know that they were getting!
- Give them a chance to have to either wait to be served or to stand in line.
- Test to see what they have learned after a month of studying thankfulness!

PARTY IDEAS:

- You could do something as simple as having a **popcorn party**. Tell them the Pilgrims had corn on Thanksgiving because it was what the Indians showed them how to plant, so you are just having a different version of it. Have seasoning salt, butter, cheese or even caramel corn so that they have some fun things to choose from.
- You could have an **ice cream sundae party**. Have ice cream with different toppings. Be sure to have some candy sprinkles and tell them for every sprinkle in their ice cream, that is how many things for which they have to thank God. As they are eating, see if they can share some of those things with each other. This will hopefully establish an atmosphere of thanks.

- A **pizza party** is always a hit! If you have an oven at your youth center, you could save some money by buying frozen pizzas. Making them yourself gives you more of a chance to make the servings equal. If you do order it, ask the cook to cut the pieces extra thin and as evenly as possible or even leave it uncut for you to cut yourself. Tell them it is for a lesson that you are trying to teach the kids, hopefully they will help you out!

THE PARTY

- During the whole process of the party, have the staff look for students who waited patiently in or at their seat to be served. Look for students who said thank you and didn't ask if they could have a little bit more on the first time through. You might have each staff watching specific students so that everyone is watched and no one gets left out.
- Then as students begin to finish, have the staff begin to ask the students who were thankful if they would like a second helping. This process could be painful, but if you want to drive this home you have to stick to your rules.
- As the students begin getting upset because they are not getting seconds, ask them if they can think of why some got more and some didn't. Remind them that this party was a free gift in the first place. They did nothing to deserve it or earn it. How much more thankful they should be!! Explain how it feels for the staff to serve the students who don't say thank you. Think about how God feels when he gives us so much and we do nothing in return.

Tell them, today we have a woman with us who asked God for something that she wanted really bad and God gave it to her. Let's see what she did in response to God's gift.

Bible Story

MATERIALS: Costume for Hannah

This Bible Story is told by Hannah. It is designed for someone to do as a monologue. Be creative and dress up. This will help the children be able to use their imaginations even more!

LEADER'S SCRIPT FOR "HANNAH"

So I hear that you guys have been learning about thankfulness. If you are a Christian, you already have a lot to be thankful for! They asked me to come here today to tell you my story about how God gave me what I wanted and how I thanked him. It is a great story, so I hope you will all listen closely!!

A long time ago, when people got married, one of the most important things to the men was to have a son to carry on the family name. If the woman that they married could not have children, they would take another wife so that he could have a way to pass on the family name. That is exactly what happened to me. I was the wife who could not have children. It made me feel so bad! The other wife had lots of kids and she would always tease me that I couldn't have any. You remember how some of you felt today when you didn't get more _____ (party item). You can imagine how bad I wanted to have a son for my husband.

Week 4 – How Can I Be Thankful?

Well, every year we would go to the temple and offer a sacrifice to God for our sins. Jesus had not died on the cross yet, so we would have to kill an animal to pay for our sins. This time when we went to the temple I prayed to God hard for a son. I wanted a son so bad I would do anything. I made a promise to God that if he would give me a son, I would give the son back to him. Sounds strange huh? Well, I wanted a son! What I meant by giving it back to God was there were priests who lived in the temple and all they did was help people worship God and listen to what God said. I told God that I would let my son grow up in the temple and he would be devoted to God completely.

Well, I was praying so hard that the priest who saw me praying thought that I was drunk. Can you believe that?

He told me to put away my wine. I told him that I was not drinking but I was asking God for a miracle. He said, "Go and may God grant you what you have asked for." I was so excited!

So, when I went home, I got pregnant right away and I had a son. God had answered my biggest prayer. He could do anything! I was so thankful to Him I can not even describe it to you. So, I named him Samuel. Do you know what his name means? It means, "because I have asked him of the Lord." Don't you think that was appropriate? I did. So when he was three years old, I went down to the temple. I took Samuel with me. I said to the priest, "Do you remember me? I am the woman who asked God for a miracle and you told me God had heard me. Well, this is the miracle that I prayed for." Then I told him how I had promised God that I would give Samuel back to Him. So here he is. The child that God gave me. His name is Samuel.

Well, the priest raised him and he is doing well. Every year when we go to the temple to offer our sacrifice, I get to see him. The amazing part of the story is that God did not only give me Samuel, but he gave me three more sons and two daughters. I did not have to be ashamed any more.

When God gave me something that I asked for, I gave Him something back in return to show Him how much I appreciated His gift. I hear that you all are talking about thankfulness. I know that God really likes it when we show our thankfulness for the things that He gives us. You should think about some of the things that God has given you and how you can thank Him. A good way to do that is to do what He says and make Him proud of you. You can think of some other things, but I have to go and check on my children. See you later.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

F A C T

Why did Hannah's husband have two wives? *Because Hannah couldn't have children and he wanted to carry on the family name.*

For what did Hannah pray to God? *A son*

Why did Hannah want a son so bad? *Because her husband's other wife was making fun of her and because she wanted her husband to be happy with her.*

F A I T H

What was Hannah's response to God's gift to her? *(She gave her gift from God back to God.)*

What was your response today to your gift of a Thanksgiving party from the staff?

Were you mad when you only got a small serving?

Did you think it should have been more? Were you promised anything at all?

Open your Bible to **Ephesians 3: 20**. Can someone read the first part of that verse for us?

How does this verse describe God? *He is able to do exceedingly more than we could ask or imagine.*

Do you think Hannah was surprised by the way God answered her prayer? *Yes, because he gave her five more children.*

F U L L F I L L M E N T

We have been talking all month about Thanksgiving. Today when you saw some people get more and others not get seconds did you know it was a lesson about being thankful? Do you think you will appreciate something like that party more next time?

Look in your Bibles at **Matthew 7:9-11**. Let's see what this tells us about what God wants to give us.

Can someone tell me what they think God wants to give us. *He wants to give us good things if we ask Him.*

We should not be afraid to ask God for the things that we need because He wants to give it to us.

What could we do for God in response to what He has given us?

Discuss some of their ideas. Make a list of what they come up with if you want some help remembering. Spend some time in prayer with the students thanking God for some of the things that they mentioned earlier.

WEEK 4 - SKITS

Skit #1

CHARACTERS: La Tasha, Maria

SCENE: LaTasha is at her house and Maria comes by to visit.

LaTasha: *(sitting in her room looking at two quarters in her hand. Hears a knock at the door and goes to answer it.)* Who is it?

Maria: LaTasha, it is me, Maria.

LaTasha: Oh hi, Maria. What are you doing?

Maria: I wanted to see if you wanted to walk down to the dollar store with me?

LaTasha: I only have 50 cents.

Maria: That is okay. Ask your mom and see if you can go anyway.

LaTasha: *(runs off and comes back)* She said I could go.

The girls begin walking.

LaTasha: You know how at the S.A.Y. Yes!® center we have been talking about thankfulness? Well, I don't feel very thankful for this 50 cents because I want to buy some clothes for my doll and I know I won't have enough, but I am going to try to be thankful for what I have and maybe something will be on sale.

Maria: I think that is a very good attitude, LaTasha. You never know what will happen. *(looking surprised and pointing)* Hey look, a yard sale. Let's see what they have.

LaTasha and Maria run over to the yard sale. Pretend the yard sale in among the children. Walk among them and pretend to be shopping.

LaTasha: Maria look at this! *(pretending to hold something up)*

Maria: *(She is kind of far away)* What is it? *(as she is walking over)*

LaTasha: It is a whole shoe box full of doll clothes that look like the right size for my doll. I wonder how much they are. I am going to ask. *She walks over and looks up to an imaginary person.* How much are these doll clothes. I only have 50 cents. I would be thankful for as many as I could get with that much. *(pauses as if to listen)* You will give me the whole box? Okay!! *(reaches into her pocket and pulls out the money.)* Thank you so much!! and Thank you God! I know He is the one who got me these clothes.

Maria: That is great LaTasha. You sure have learned a lot this month! Remember at the first of the month when you lost your notebook and you prayed. You forgot to thank God that time, but this time you remembered!

LaTasha: I guess a little thankfulness will go a long ways.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why did LaTasha thank God for her 50 cents? *So she could learn to be thankful in a little and not always want more - not so that she could be blessed.*

Do you think that LaTasha’s thankfulness was pleasing to God? *Yes!*

Why do you think that person at the yard sale sold her all those clothes for only 50 cents? *Because she was kind and said she would be thankful for whatever she got, sometimes that makes it easier for them to be nicer to you!*

Skit #2

CHARACTERS: Reuben, Bobby

SCENE: Bobby and Reuben are walking home from basketball practice.

Bobby: I am sick of being on the basketball team. I think I might quit.

Reuben: Bobby, what are you talking about? Don’t you remember how you prayed that God would get you on the team and now you are going to quit?

Bobby: I know, but that coach is messed up. He won’t ever let me play. We have had 5 games so far and I haven’t got to play once.

Reuben: Well, it sounds like to me that you are not really that thankful to be on the team. I think you would feel a lot worse if you never made the team and you would have to listen to all those guys talking about practice and the coach and you would feel really left out. At least now, you get the chance to practice and keep getting better. You never know when he might put you in. But he will never be able to put you in if you quit.

Bobby: I know. I guess I do need to be thankful for being on the team. I guess is kind of cool at least to be able to tell people I am on the team.

Reuben: Exactly, I think you know what I mean.

Bobby: I am going to thank God tonight for being on the team and try to go to practice tomorrow with a better attitude.

Reuben: That is a great idea! Let me know what happens.

Someone hold up a sign that says “Next Day” or just shout it!

Bobby: *(Comes running up to Reuben)* Reuben, you know how I thanked God last night for being on the team? Well, grades came out last week and the coach just saw them. The guy that is first string in my position failed math and coach says he has no business playing basket ball until his grades are better. So he told me that he is going to play me in next Friday’s game so I better get ready!

Reuben: Wow, that is great!

Bobby: I know this had to be God! Now I have something else to thank him for!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What do you think Bobby's attitude had been like at basketball practice? *Bad, maybe complaining a lot and getting mad*

Do you think this could have had any thing to do with why the coach didn't let him play?
Yes, many times coaches look for people who are not only good players but have good attitudes. A good attitude is sometimes just as important!

Has there ever been a time when you had to stop playing a sport because of your attitude?

What do you think you should do next time?

WEEK 4 - MEMORY VERSE

SCRIPTURE: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thess. 5:16-18

Shoe Scramble Verse

MATERIALS: A copy of the verse per child; blindfold

- Have the children sit down in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the verse to study. The children can continue to study the verse during the game.
- Have all the children take off one shoe and place it in the center of the circle.
- Mix the shoes all up.
- The leader chooses one child to be “it.”
- “It” is blindfolded and then goes to the shoe pile and selects a shoe.
- The owner of the selected shoe must attempt to say the verse.
- If the owner says the verse, they receive (1) S.A.Y. Yes!® dollar or one piece of candy.
- If the owner cannot say the verse, the person who is “it” draws another shoe.

WEEK 4 - PRACTICAL LIVING

NEW!

When and How to Write a Thank You Note

MATERIALS: Chalkboard or dry erase board, chalk or dry erase pen, paper and pencils for the students.

Today you are going to teach the children about when the appropriate times are to write a thank you note and how to do it.

Start off by helping the children come up with a list of when they might write a thank you note. Ask them questions that will help them come up with a list similar to this one: (write their answers up on the board.)

- **When someone gives you a gift.**
 - Birthday, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, other special events like weddings, new baby etc.

- **When someone does something extra nice for you:**
 - Lets you stay at their house overnight, takes you on a special trip to the movie and they have paid your way, has you over for dinner, helps you with a big project at school

Once you feel like they have a pretty good idea of when to thank someone, ask them if they would know what they would say.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Tell them that you want them to think of someone that they want to write a thank you note to. You will help them write a note together and they will fill in the details. Here are two sample notes:

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for the _____. I really like it. I have been able to use it _____. It was so nice of you to remember me on _____. I hope you are doing well. I hope to see you again soon.

Love,

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for _____. That was so nice of you to do that for me. I looked forward to _____ so much and I am still remembering how much fun I had. I hope that we can do something together again soon.

Thank you,

OR, you may do the following . . .

A Thanksgiving Celebration

MATERIALS: Thanksgiving decorations, food (you can do a full thanksgiving dinner down to just serving popcorn), any props you can find for the telling of the story

- Today is to be a traditional thanksgiving celebration (American style).
- Decorate the room where you will have the celebration.
- Place tablecloths on the tables.
- You may want to have a full thanksgiving dinner.
- If you choose to do this, ask a member(s) of your church to prepare the dinner.
- You might have foods similar to that which was eaten at the first thanksgiving celebration, turkey, corn, potatoes, etc..
- If you don't have the money or the personnel to do a full dinner you could serve popcorn. The room should still be decorated as if you were doing a full feast.
- If possible, have everyone sit at one long table.
- This is a day to ask the senior pastor to join you.
- Have the senior pastor sit at the head of the table - like the father of a family would.
- If he is willing have him tell the thanksgiving story (see following page) before the "meal" is served.
- Tell the children to listen carefully because after their "meal" they will be asked questions about the story.
- After the story is told serve the "meal."
- Following the meal take the children to an area where you can sit in a circle on the floor.
- Tell the children you are going to have a time of Praise, Confession and Thanksgiving.

The Thanksgiving Story

Adapted from “The Light and the Glory” by Peter Marshall

The very first Thanksgiving was celebrated in Massachusetts in the year 1621 by the Pilgrims along with the Indians. They had gathered together to thank God for the corn harvest.

It was a three day feast - a time of celebration and prayers of thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims had come to America from England, they were seeking religious freedom. They landed in the harbor they would call Plymouth named after the last town they left in their native country. December was almost over and they were moving into the worst months of winter.

The Pilgrims started dying. six died in December, eight in January. At one point in February there were only five men well enough to care for the sick. When the worst was finally over nearly half their original number had died.

The high point of their week continued to be their Sunday worship. They gathered to worship God once in the morning and then again in the afternoon. The Pilgrims did not dress in the somber browns and blacks our pictures often show them to wear - that would be their cousins the Puritans who would come later. The Pilgrims were Elizabethan Englishmen and appropriate Sunday garb would have been plum-red capes or an emerald green satin jacket.

The service was held in a building the men on one side of the room and the women on the other side, all sitting on rough-hewn log benches. William Brewster was the teacher.

On a Friday in the middle of March an Indian entered the village. There was fear and curiosity amongst the Pilgrims. To the surprise of the Pilgrims the Indian spoke English - his name was Samoset.

He told them of the other Indians in the area. Where they were living right now had been the territory of the Patuxets. a large, hostile tribe who had killed every white man who had ever landed there. However, the Patuxets were hit by a mysterious plague and every man, woman and child had died. The other Indians in the area would not enter this territory for they were afraid there was an evil spirit that had destroyed the Patuxets.

Samoset left the next day and returned the following Thursday with another Indian who also spoke English.

Squanto was a Patuxet who had been taken captive in 12605 by an English captain. He was taken to England where he learned English. Captain John Smith brought Squanto back to his native land. But Squanto was not to remain long at home, for another Captain lured him onto his ship and once again he was placed in bondage. But instead of being shipped off to North Africa Squanto was bought and rescued by some Catholic priests who introduced him to the Christian faith. God was preparing Squanto for the role he would play at Plymouth.

Squanto's story is not unlike the story of Joseph in the Bible.

Squanto did not stay long in the monastery but left with an Englishman bound for London. Once in London he met and joined the household of a wealthy merchant. In 1619 he returned to his homeland with Captain Dermer. What a shock it must have been to discover that all of his people were gone.

Week 4 – How Can I Be Thankful?

Squanto had lost his will for living - until Samoset brought news to him of a group of English families who were trying to exist on the land that had belonged to his tribe. Squanto adopted the Pilgrims as his own. He taught them how to plant corn the Indian way. He taught them how to catch fish and use the fish to fertilize the corn. He taught them to hunt deer, refine maple syrup, discern which herbs were good to eat and good for medicine.

Squanto was certainly sent by God to the Pilgrims to help them through, to teach them how to live in this new land.

So, Governor Bradford declared a day of thanksgiving to be celebrated in October. They invited Massasoit the Indian chief, who arrived a day early with 90 Indians,. The Pilgrims were concerned, for feeding such a group would cut deeply into the food that would be needed to get them through the coming winter.

But Massasoit had commanded his braves to hunt for the occasion, and they brought deer and turkeys. They taught the Pilgrims how to make hoecakes and a tasty pudding out of cornmeal. They also introduced the Pilgrims to a new treat - popcorn.

The festival was so great it went on for three days.

Much more than being just a time of merriment, it was a time to recognize that God had brought them through that first winter. William Brewster led them in a prayer as they began their three days of celebration.

There was much to be thankful for that first thanksgiving. We too have much to be thankful for. While we eat our “thanksgiving” meal together let’s talk about what we have to be thankful for.

· Adults should be prepared to talk with the children during the “meal” about what they have for which to be thankful. (School, food, clothes, S.A.Y. Yes![®], volunteers and staff who love them, family, games they can play, Jesus)

Help them think through what they have to be thankful for. Be sensitive to the life situation of each child.

DISCUSSION

In our thanksgiving story today there were three main truths we want to think about.

First: There were good, kind Indians and there were good, kind white men.

Second: There were evil Indians and there were evil white men.

Third: God had a plan for this country. He used both the evil men and the good men to accomplish His plan.

Who were the kind Indians? *Samoset, Squanto, Massasoit, the braves who hunted and brought deer and turkeys to the thanksgiving feast.*

Who were the kind white men? *William Brewster, the Catholic priests, the Puritans, Captain John Smith, Captain Dermer, Governor Bradford*

Who were the evil Indians? *The Patuxets*

Who were the evil white men? *The English captain who had taken Squanto captive and taken him to Europe, the second captain who took Squanto captive, the people in England who bought the Indians as slaves*

Week 4 – How Can I Be Thankful?

What was God’s plan for America? *That people living on this land would come to know Jesus as their Savior. This has been His plan for the whole world.*

What do you think is something amazing about this story? *That Squanto and Samoset knew English. If they had not been able to speak English it would have been much more difficult for them to help the Pilgrims.*

That the Patuxets had been wiped out by illness just before the Pilgrims came. This meant no one owned this land and it was available for the Pilgrims. The other Indian tribes were afraid of the land and did not want to live there.

Do you know what person in the bible that Squanto’s story is similar to? *Joseph - he was sold into slavery; made head of his masters house; unjustly accused and thrown into prison; God protected him and returned him to a place of even greater leadership; when famine came to his homeland he was able to provide for the very brothers who had sold him into slavery. God had sent him ahead of them to prepare for this time of famine. Though the Pilgrims weren’t the ones who had taken Squanto they were white like the men who had taken him. Yet he adopted them as his own and helped them through a difficult time.*

We are going to now have a time of praise. Let’s just name off words that describe who God is. *Be prepared to make suggestions to the children. Love, great, savior, Lord, King, kind, gentle, just etc.. Make sure the other adults are prepared to praise the Lord.*

We are now going to have a time of confession. We need to take time and be still before the Lord. We need to stop and think about how we treat other people. The history of man is filled with one man or woman hurting another. In the very beginning Cain killed his brother Abel. In America men and women have been contemptible to other men and women. They have done evil things.

But often we have a tendency to look at what others have done and not deal with who we are ourselves.

We must remember that evil can begin with me. Please close your eyes and imagine that Jesus is standing in front of you right now. Silently, in your mind, talk to Jesus about how you have shown respect to your parents, grandparents or foster parents. Let there be silence for 2 minutes.

- Your brothers and sisters.
- Your teachers.
- Your friends.
- Kids with whom you interact at school and/or the S.A.Y. Yes!® Center.

“Jesus, we confess to you that at times we do not act with love towards other people. Jesus, give us strength to be loving. Jesus we do not want to be evil. Amen.”

Now we are going to spend some time thanking God for what He has given us. *Again prepare the adults ahead of time so they can state things for which they are thankful during lulls in the prayer time. Even in the worst situations there is something for which we can be thankful. Ultimately we know that Jesus loves us and have a plan for our lives - if we but seek Him.*

Challenge the children to choose someone in their in their life that they are thankful for, and let the children know that they will have an opportunity to make something for that person, during CRAFT TIME.

WEEK 4 - READ-A-LOUD



“Old Mr. Rabbit’s Thanksgiving Dinner?”

Carolyn Sherwin Bailey *The Book of Virtues* p. 114

SUMMARY: This is a story about a rabbit who went out very early one morning and gathered up all the food he could find. He did well for himself and was pleased when he came home. As he sat on his front porch while his dinner cooked, all the other farm animals looked for something to eat, but they couldn’t find anything and it was very cold outside. So, Old Mr. Rabbit decides to cook dinner for all his friends. Just as they were about to give up looking for food, he rang his dinner bell and invited them all in to eat. What he didn’t know was that it was actually Thanksgiving Day!

The point we want the students to know is that sometimes we need to show people how thankful we are by doing something nice for them, not just saying thank you.

PRE READING QUESTIONS:

- 1) Has anyone ever tried to cook dinner before or even made something to eat?
- 2) Did it take you very long or was it done in a few minutes?
- 3) Can you imagine how long it would take to cook a Thanksgiving dinner for about 15 people all by yourself?

In today’s story, “Old Mr. Rabbit’s Thanksgiving Dinner,” someone tries to do that. Who do you think it will be from the title of the story?

LISTENING QUESTIONS:

I am going to read this story and I want you to be listening for the answers to these questions. We will talk about them at the end.

- 1) **When did Mr. Rabbit go out to find food?** *Early in the morning*
- 2) **What was the problem that all of his friends seemed to be having?** *They couldn’t find food.*
- 3) **What did he decide to do for his friends?** *He cooked the food that he had collected for himself for his friends.*

POST READING QUESTIONS:

First, answer the listening questions that they were waiting for during the story.

- 1) **How do you think Old Mr. Rabbit felt when he saw that his friends had nothing?**
He felt bad that they didn't have anything and he had so much.
- 2) **Old Mr. Rabbit showed that he was thankful for what he had by sharing it with his friends. What is something you could do to show someone you're thankful besides saying "thank you?"** *Write them a note, buy them a little gift, make them something.*
- 3) **How did Old Mr. Rabbit feel when he was able to do something for his friends?**
- 4) **What did Hannah do in the Bible Story to show she was thankful?** *Gave her son Samuel back to God*
- 5) **Can someone tell me when our memory verse says that we should be thankful?**
In every circumstance!

WEEK 4 - CRAFTS

NEW!

✂ **Making Stationary for Thank You Notes**

[Do this craft as a follow-up, if you used “When and How to Write a Thank You Note – Practical Living]

MATERIALS: Colored paper, markers, stickers, stencils, ribbon (any extra things you might have left over from other craft that could be used to make stationary)

This week in Practical Living, you had the children think of when and how to write thank you notes and they wrote one out that was a sample. Today, follow that up with having each child **design their own thank you notes.**

- They can make many of the same card or they can all be different.
- They could make nice stationary to write on.
- Encourage the children to keep the design simple so that they could make several cards. Have them choose the one that they like the best and write it out to someone.
- They may want to recopy what they wrote during practical living onto the nice card or they can write a new one.
- Have the younger children tell a staff person or volunteer what they want to say and write it for them.
- If their thank you note is going to someone far away, help them find an envelope and the address and put a stamp on it so that person can get their hand crafted thank you note. The children need to see the power of their words!

OR, you may do the following . . .

✂ **A Gift of Thanks**

MATERIALS: Sacks for the students to put materials in (that they chose from the craft closet), glue, scissors, markers and pencils.

This week the craft began during the practical living time. They were to plan something to make for someone they are thankful for in their life. If you have any questions, read the practical living for this week.

During this time, your job is to move around the room helping the students create what they pictured in the creativity of their mind. Help them to remember to show thankfulness both in what they say or make and in how they are treating their classmates during craft time.

Week 4 – How Can I Be Thankful?

Have some phrases written on the board that they might want to include in their cards, if that is what they chose to make.

You could put things up like:

Some of the things that I appreciate about you are....

I thank God for friends like you....

You do so many things for me that I never thank you for like....

You are the person that I want to thank this Thanksgiving.

You can also put a few verses up like:

“I thank my God every time I remember you.” Phil. 1:3

“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thess. 1:2

Teacher Tip: Kids don't get a lot of chances to create from scratch, so they may have a hard time. That is okay!

You have to know that there is growth in struggle. Try not to rescue them. Try to ask them questions that will make them think. Give them lots of encouragement!! They will need it! The more they do things like this, the better they will get. Sometimes craft can be one of the hardest times for students who are dealing with a lot at home. When they create something, they see it many times as a reflection of themselves. If they hate to look at themselves, they will often hate the things that they create. For the students that you keep noticing having a hard time in crafts, try to prepare them for it a day in advance and give them encouragement early. Don't punish them for tearing up their picture by setting them aside and not letting them participate - that is what they want. Give them the encouragement that they need to continue!

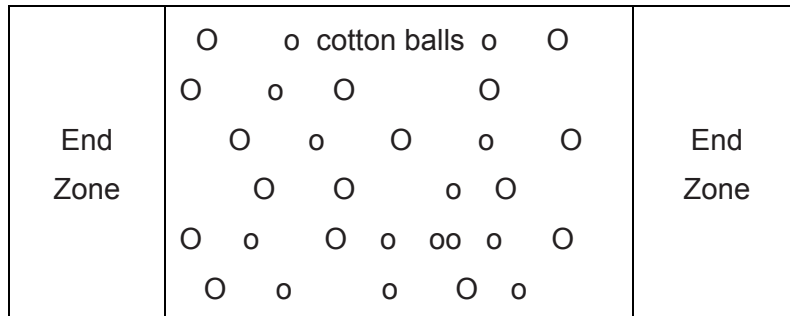
WEEK 4 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Cotton Ball Hockey

MATERIALS: paper towel tubes for one team and rolled up newspaper for the other team, one bag of cotton balls (the largest ones that you can find.)

SET-UP

- Divide the group into two teams. (We will just call the Team **A** and Team **B**)
- Give each player on Team **A** a rolled up sheet of newspaper.
- Give each player on Team **B** a paper towel tube.
- In the playing area, scatter a large bag of cotton balls around on the floor.



TO PLAY

- When the leader shouts “Go,” each player is to attempt to get a cotton ball into his/her end zone.
- Players may not touch each other - however, they may use their “sticks” in any way they wish to hinder an opposing player from moving his/her “ball” to the end zone.
- When time is called, the team with the most cotton balls in their end zone is the winner.
- Players should discover that they need to work as a team and build a strategy.
- The team that plays as a team and not a bunch of individuals is the team most apt to win.

DISCUSSION:

Ask the students if there was anything that they did that they think that they might need to apologize for during the game? Is there any student that was a great team player? Thank the student as a center. They were one of the students that made the game fun.

DAY TWO: Lights-Camera-Action

MATERIALS: paper bags, collections of odd things for each team

OBJECT: To create a skit using the collection of odds-and-ends in the bag.

- Divide into the number of teams that you think would work well. The number of teams will depend on the number of children you have. Make sure there is a mix of older and younger children together. (You can use this as a team game or a non-team game. If you use this as a team game, divide each team into two smaller groups. The winner should be based on participation and teamwork.)
- Each team is given a paper bag containing a variety of things.
- The teams are given 10 minutes to concoct a little play including every one of the items in some way.
- Each team gets to perform their skit.

DISCUSSION:

Talk to the students about how they came up with the way they used each of the objects. Talk about the fact that many of them had to use their God given gift of creativity to be able to do this. Many of them also used their talents to act and to think on their feet. All these things are gifts from God that we need to thank him for as often as we can.

These things we did not acquire on our own. Help them think of other things that we could thank God for today. Have a short time of prayer, thanking God for their talents and gifts.

DAY THREE: Pairs Relay

MATERIALS: None

OBJECT: To be the first team to have all it's pairs return home first.

- Each team divides into pairs, facing one another and holding hands.
- The first pair runs from the starting point to the opposite end with one player (#1) running backwards pulling his/her partner (#2).
- They then return to the start point with #2 pulling #1.
- Then, the second pair sets off.
- The team to have all it's pairs return home first wins.

and/or

DAY THREE: Newspaper Relay

MATERIALS: Newspapers, two sheets for each team, plus some extras

OBJECT: To be the first team to have all it's Players walk on newspaper from one point to another and return.

Week 4 – How Can I Be Thankful?

- When the leader says “GO,” the first person on each team lays down the first sheet of newspaper, steps on it, and then lays down the second sheet of paper.
- He then moves to the second sheet and picks up the first sheet now laying it in front of him.
- Players may move to the finish line only by stepping from sheet to sheet.
- He then runs back with the papers to the second person on his team who repeats what he has done.
- The first team to have all it’s players return home wins.

DISCUSSION:

Ask the students how they felt when they saw that their team was winning? How did they feel when their team was losing? In which situation were they thankful to be a part of the team? Is the only good part about being on a team? What else can we be thankful for about our team besides winning? Winning is fun, but can we learn to appreciate other aspects of the game?

DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun play equipment that you have!

This is the last free play of this unit. Make sure that they are exhibiting some thankful behaviors that they learned over the last month. Recognize the students that have shown growth in these areas. Thank God that the center is still here to provide this learning environment. Ask the students what else they have learned that they can be thankful for over the last month.

Beanbag Volleyball

MATERIALS: Volleyball net, four to six bean bags and a whistle

TO PLAY:

- Divide the group into two teams, with one team on each side of the net.
- Give each team two or three bean bags. (The more bean bags the crazier the game.)
- At the sound of the whistle, the bean bags are tossed over the net at the opposing team.
- The opposing team tries to catch the bean bags.
- After a bean bag is caught, it is tossed back over the net.
- If the bean bag is not caught, pick it up and toss it back over the net.
- The less time between tosses, the better the game.
- One point is scored for each beanbag a team catches.
- The first team scoring 5 points wins the game.
- Then restart the game with equal number of beanbags on each side.
- The first team to win three games wins the match.

Crab soccer

MATERIALS: Soccer ball, goals like soccer only smaller

TO PLAY:

- This game follows the basic rules of soccer, except kids play indoors. It's less competitive since all the players are "crabs." This helps even the non-athletic kids enjoy this game.
- Form two teams and play soccer.
- Everyone must walk and kick the ball like crabs – with their bellies in the air and walking on all fours. Encourage them to strategize, just like they would in soccer.

Snake

Materials: None (just kids!)

TO PLAY:

- Divide into two teams.
- Have the teams gather behind a starting line.
- The object is to make a human snake that stretches around the room, gym or hallway, around a goal and back to the starting line. (The longer the course the better.)
- On “go”, the first child on each team lies on the ground with his or her hands on the starting line and feet stretched down field. As soon as the first child is lying down, the second child runs and grabs the feet of the first child and lies down in the same way and so on.
- When everyone who is in the line is lying down as part of the snake, have the first child get up and run to the end of the snake and hook on again. Then have the children continue this action until the course is complete.
- It is best to have an adult at the end of each line to tell each child when he or she can run to the end of the snake.

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