

A Thank You Leper

Kids Small Groups: Kindergarten-5th Grade

November 26, 2017

Bible Story: A Thank You Leper (Jesus heals 10 men) • *Luke 17:11-19*

Bottom Line: Say thank you.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.” *1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV*

Life App: Gratitude—letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

GET READY

The following supplies will be prepared ahead of time for Kindergarten-5th Grade Kids Small Groups this week and can be picked up from the Upper Resource Room on Sunday Morning:

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Group, 15 minutes)

(Choose as many of these activities as you would like.)

1. Early Arriver

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

- Masking tape (optional)
- Marker (optional)

2. Wows & Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

- No supplies needed

3. Thankless

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

- Print the “Thankless Job Description” Activity Page and cut apart; 1 half page for each kid
- Cardstock
- Crayons or markers

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 15 minutes)

Large Group Video: Story @ 10 a.m. in the Ms. Teresa Children’s Worship Center

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Group, 30 minutes)

(Choose as many of these activities as you would like.)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #3.*

1. But Then . . .

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

- No supplies needed

2. Gratitude Gram

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

- Random seasonal props: fall leaves, a turkey hat, cornucopia, pictures of pies, etc.
(Note: If your church does not celebrate American Thanksgiving, gather props that are appropriate for your culture, location, or situation.)
- A camera or smartphone

*** 3. A Center of Gratitude**

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

- Small glass votive holders OR small glass baby-food sized jars; 1 for each kid
- Water cups; 1 for each kid
- Paint brushes; 1 for each kid
- Glue
- Tissue paper in many colors, cut or torn into squares
- Bibles
- Markers

Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

- Make copies of this week's GodTime card; 1 per kid

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction **(Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that kids would understand the importance of making sure others know they are grateful for what they have been given. Ask God to help kids understand that even if they ARE grateful, if they don't say thank you, the other person won't know they're grateful.

1. Early Arriver Idea

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Masking tape (*optional*), and marker (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Greet the kids as they arrive and encourage them to put their offerings in the container.
 - Quietly give each kid an activity that they might do on a typical day: riding the bus to school, eating breakfast, doing homework, etc.
 - Alternatively, for older kids, you can use the tape and marker and write their activity on tape attached to the back of their shirt.
 - Then direct kids to line up in the order of their activities, from waking up to going to sleep.
 - If you've used the tape on their backs, kids need to ask each other or guess what activity they are before they line up.
 - If time allows, ask kids to think of which people help them during their activities/time of day.
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2. Wows and Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Before heading to large group, ask each kid about a good thing (a Wow) that happened during the week and a bad thing (a Pow) that happened during the week. Encourage each child to share at least one *Wow*.
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3. Thankless

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Thankless Job Description” Activity Page, cardstock, crayons/markers

What You Do:

- Hand out the Activity Pages. Pair up strong writers with younger kids.
- Ask an older kid to define a “thankless” job (*a job that typically doesn’t receive a lot of gratitude or recognition*).
- As a group, brainstorm some examples of thankless jobs, like cleaning toilets, making dinner for a family with three kids, taking out the trash, etc.
- Let kids decide on a thankless job that someone they know actually does, and tell them to list all the details on the Activity Page.
- Then guide kids to use the supplies to make thank you cards for those people.

What You Say:

“There are not many people who take on a thankless job. Some jobs might be difficult or boring or smelly, but no one who does them should feel unappreciated. ***[Transition]*** **Let’s head to Large Group to hear more about how we can show gratitude to people who help us in all kinds of ways.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways **(Large Group, 15 minutes)**

Lead your group to the purple chairs in the middle of the **Mrs. Teresa Children’s Worship Center at 10 a.m.** for the Large Group Story Video. Please sit with your Small Group and watch the video with the children.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect **(Small Groups, 30 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. But Then . . .

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the group in a circle.
- Remind them of the part in our Bible story where one man ran back to thank Jesus, but the other nine didn't.
- Brainstorm reasons why they might have done that:
 - They forgot.
 - They tripped over their robes and ripped them.
 - They stepped in a camel patty.
 - They wanted to celebrate the last 10 birthdays they'd missed.
- Then go around the circle and play a game like "Going on a Picnic" with these words: "Jesus healed me, but then . . ."
 - The first child fills in an answer, either with something that was brainstormed earlier or something he comes up with on the spot.
 - Then the second kid repeats the first kid's answer and adds her own after it.
 - This goes all the way around the circle to the last child, who has to remember all the answers from the circle. (Give help as needed and make it fun and light.)
- Change the game.
 - Start the sentence, "Someone helped me, but then . . ."
 - Play the game as before, but add the real things we often get distracted by instead of saying thank you to those who deserve it.
 - Encourage kids to come up with some real-life examples and some ridiculous things.

What You Say:

"You all have good memories! And maybe we've never been so wrapped up in (*list one or two of the silliest answers from the game*) that we've forgotten to **[Bottom Line] say thank you**, but it happens in other ways. Raise your hand if you've ever forgotten to say thank you at a birthday party. (*Pause.*) What about at your own birthday party? (*Pause.*) And when you buy lunch at school, do you thank the cafeteria worker, or are you really busy chatting with your friends or figuring out how to get double fries instead of coleslaw? Yeah, we all forget sometimes.

[Make It Personal] (*Share a time when you forgot to say thank you, and talk about if you went back to show gratitude or if you just shrugged it off. If there was a time when you didn't get thanked and it hurt your feelings, this might be a good time to share as you feel appropriate.*) "But the good news is that it's never too late to **[Bottom Line] say thank you**. If you feel nervous about saying it in person, you can leave a note or send a card. You can text, message, or even call someone that you think deserves an overdue thank you."

2. Gratitude Gram

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Seasonal props, camera/smartphone

What You Do:

- Give kids a few minutes to think about whom they'd like to send a "Gratitude Gram" to. It should be someone with a smartphone or computer, unless you can print pictures at your facility.
- Then let kids choose props and practice their grams. They can take a still picture or a 30-second movie of them singing, dancing, or talking.
- For younger kids, you might prompt them to say, "Hi, [person's name], thank you for [action]." Emphasize that we're thanking people for things they've done, not necessarily things that they gave us.
- For older kids, let them use their own phones to make the videos, in cooperation with whatever media rules and tech policies are in place at your church.
- If possible, upload the Gratitude Grams to a place where kids can send their recipients a link. Your church social media page or YouTube® channel might be a good start.

What You Say:

"Great Grammin'! You had to be pretty creative to come up with a new way to **[Bottom Line] say thank you**. Now, you won't always have access to a fake turkey and a pilgrim hat when you want to show gratitude, so what are some other ways you can **[Bottom Line] say thank you?** (*Pause for answers.*) Those are all great answers. Why do you think it's important to **[Bottom Line] say thank you?** (*Pause for answers.*) Yes, we want to acknowledge and appreciate those who have helped us. Have you ever done something and been thanked for it? How did that feel? (*Pause for answers.*) One of the reasons we thank others is because it's part of treating others the way we want to be treated. We want to be noticed for our efforts for other people, so we should also **[Bottom Line] say thank you** when someone is kind or helpful to us."

* 3. A Center of Gratitude

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Votive holders or baby-food sized jars; glue; water cups; paintbrushes; torn-up tissue paper; markers; Bibles

What You Do:

- Gather the group and look up 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Read it out loud together.
- Give each child a glass votive holder, a brush, and a cup of glue mixed with water.
- Guide them to write 1 Thessalonians 5:18 on the glass with a permanent maker. Let that dry.
- For younger kids, write the reference for them and enlist the help of older kids to write.

- Show them how to place a tissue square on the glass and brush the glue mixture over it, so that the paper is translucent and sticks to the glass.
- Set out the tissue squares and let kids decorate their glasses, using lighter colors over the Scripture reference so that it is still visible.
- Set the glasses aside to dry.

What You Say:

“These will look so bright and cheerful on your holiday tables this week! And I’m glad that you can see our verse written on them. That verse is all about making sure we **[Bottom Line] say thank you** to God and to other people. When you are sitting around your table and this candle is in the middle, what do you think you and your loved ones will be most thankful for? *(Pause for answers.)* While a lot of things that we say we’re thankful for are due to God and His care for us, make sure that you have time to **[Bottom Line] say thank you** to someone around that table this week. It might be to your grandma for making your favorite mashed potatoes or to your neighbor for helping you rake leaves. Maybe your sister let you choose the movie to watch after dinner or perhaps your uncle took time to play football outside when he could have been watching the big game inside. I’m sure there will be a lot of times this week when you’ll get to **[Bottom Line] say thank you.**”

Optional Additional Discussion Questions for Older Kids (2nd-5th Grade)

- Have you ever thanked someone and not really meant it? Or have you ever been thanked, but it seemed like the other person was just forcing the words out? Did you have a great relationship with those people or a complicated one?
- Love and gratitude go hand in hand. Read Luke 7:36-50. Do you think the woman’s love came from her gratitude toward Jesus? Did Simon feel the same gratitude toward Jesus? Why or why not?

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: GodTime cards

What You Do:

- Gather the group in a circle and encourage them to be reverent.
- Lead them in a call-and-response prayer below.

What You Say:

“Dear God, this week we know that there will be a lot of times that we can **[Bottom Line] say thank You**. We are grateful for Your love and care. This week we’ll have times when people need us to **[Bottom Line] say thank you**. Please help us to show our gratitude. When we get everything we want, we’ll **[Bottom Line] say thank you**. When nothing on the table seems

edible, we'll still ***[Bottom Line] say thank you*** because our loved ones worked hard to serve us. Whether we win or lose at family Monopoly®, we'll look at those who spent time with us and ***[Bottom Line] say thank you***. When we have to share a room with our cousins, we'll ***[Bottom Line] say thank you*** because we're grateful for our family. In everything that goes on this week, please help us to remember always to ***[Bottom Line] say thank you***. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, help kids gather their candleholders and ask families to find a place for them at their holiday tables. If there's time, you can share the Gratitude Grams with kids and adults.

As kids leave, give each one a copy of this week's GodTime card to take home.