

Keep Psalm and Be Thankful

Kids Small Groups: Kindergarten-1st Grade

November 5, 2017

Bible Story: Keep Psalm and Be Thankful (A psalm of thanksgiving) • *Psalm 100:1-5*

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

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 can trust God no matter what.

GET READY

The following supplies will be prepared ahead of time for Elementary 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 Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

- No supplies needed

2. Wows & Pows

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

- No supplies needed

3. Celebration Days

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

- Small dowel rods or craft sticks; 1 for each kid
- Ribbon cut into 4-inch strips; 4 pieces for each kid
- Scissors
- Tape
- Markers

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

Large Group Video: Movie @ 11:10 a.m. in the Children’s Worship Center

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Group, 35 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 #2.*

1. Praise Him Cards

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

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

- Print the "Praise Him Cards" Activity Page and cut apart; 1 set for each small group
- Index cards; 5-6 for each small group
- Scissors
- A beach or playground ball
- Masking tape

*** 2. Focused Thanksgiving**

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

- Print the "Camera of Thanks" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; 1 camera for each kid
- Print the "Picture Strips" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; 1 strip for each kid
- Scissors
- Markers

3. Memory Verse Motions

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

- Bibles

Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

- Small notebook *(Note: You will use this notebook every week in November to create a "gratitude journal.")*
- Pens
- Markers
- Index cards; 1 for each kid
- Make copies of this week's GodTime and Parent Cue Cards; 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. Thank God for what He has done already in the lives of your few. Take a few moments to celebrate the relationships God has given your group and thank God for the opportunity to lead them.

1. Early Arriver Idea

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids as they arrive.
 - Ask:
 - What is something you love in nature? Why?
 - What is something you're good at?
 - *Note: You can let the kids help you cut the ribbon for the following activity, "Celebration Days," as you discuss the questions above.*
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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. Celebration Days

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

What You Need: Dowel rods or craft sticks, markers, tape, ribbon, scissors

What You Do:

- Pass out a dowel rod or craft stick and four pieces of ribbon to each child.
- Pass out the markers for kids to decorate their sticks.

- Show the children how to tape the ribbon to the tops of their sticks to create a celebration stick they can wave.
- Talk about special days throughout the year that you celebrate (like Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, etc.). Discuss the questions below as they decorate their sticks.
- Ask:
 - What are some special days you celebrate?
 - What are some things you do on those days to celebrate?
- *Note: If possible, allow the kids to take their celebration sticks into Large Group to wave during worship. Be prepared to collect them after the worship segment so they don't become a distraction during the Bible story.*

What You Say:

“Your celebration sticks look awesome! We celebrate so many fun things throughout the year, but did you know there is SOMEONE we can celebrate every day? **[Transition]** Let's head to Large Group and find out who it is.”

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 *Ms. Teresa Children's Worship Center at 11:10 a.m.* for the Large Group Movie Video. Please sit with your Small Group in the Worship Center and enjoy the movie.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect
(Small Groups, 35 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. Praise Him Cards

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

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

What You Need: “Praise Him Cards” Activity Page, scissors, large beach or playground ball, index cards, masking tape

What You Do:

- Cut apart the cards and tape them randomly around the outside of the ball. (*Note: If you have more than 10 kids, tape some blank index cards onto the ball as well so each kid will have a card.*)
- Gather all the kids in a circle and ask them to stand up (or get on their knees).
- Ask the kids to close their eyes, keep them closed, and pass the ball around the circle.
- During their turn, each child should remove one card and pass the ball to the next person.
- When the ball has made its way around the circle and everyone has a card, instruct the kids to open their eyes, have a seat, and take a look at their card.
- Explain that the picture on each card represents something that God has done that we can celebrate.
- Go around the circle and ask each kid to hold up his card for the rest of the group to see and share what they think that card represents. (*NOTE: Below are some possible answers. The kids may give differing answers; just listen and redirect if needed. Some answers may be super creative!*)
 - Cross: God sent Jesus
 - Hands: God made us
 - Sunset: God made the sun to keep us warm
 - Rainbow: God always keeps his promises; He gives us beauty in nature to enjoy
 - House: God provides what we need
 - Friends: God gives us good friends
 - Bible: God has given us His Word
 - Fruit: God gives us good things to eat
 - Heart: God loves us; God gives us the ability to love and be loved
 - Family: God gives us a family to love or people to care for us
 - Blank: Let the kids name something God has done that they can celebrate (be prepared to help kids with their answers if necessary)

What You Say:

“Wow! Great answers, everyone. What a loving, mighty, creative, and powerful God. He has done so many wonderful things for us and it’s important to celebrate all He’s done. That’s what gratitude is all about—letting someone know you see how they’ve helped you. We can **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done** by praising and thanking Him for all these things and so much more!” **[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about something God has done specifically for you. How did you thank Him?)**

* 2. Focused Thanksgiving

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Camera of Thanks” and “Picture Strips” Activity Pages, markers, and scissors

What You Do:

- Pass out a “Camera of Thanks” and “Picture Strip” to each kid.
- Point out the three sections of the strip. Instruct the kids to draw three pictures of things that God has made—one in each section of the strip.
- If time allows, let kids color the camera too.
- As they finish their picture strips, help the kids cut a slit on each side of their camera so they can slide their picture strips through and display each image inside the camera lens.
- Let the kids pull their picture strips through the camera to see their images.
- If time allows, let each kid share one of their pictures with the group.

What You Say:

“Your pictures are beautiful! God has made so many amazing things, including you! Look at all the creativity He’s put in each of you. He has done so much for us. I want you to take this home and place it next to your bed. Each night before you go to bed, take a look at one of the pictures and thank God for what you’ve drawn. That is one big way to help you remember to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done this week.**”

3. Memory Verse Motions

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Pass out the Bibles and use the navigation tips below to help the kids look up this month’s memory verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to 1 Thessalonians at the top of the page as you say “1 Thessalonians” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 5 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 5 for the little 18; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 1 Thessalonians in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that 1 Thessalonians starts with a number “1” and the letter “T.” When the kids find 1 Thessalonians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Thessalonians. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Thessalonians,

explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 5.

- Read the verse aloud as the kids follow along in their Bibles.
- Teach the motions listed below to help the kids learn the verse:
 - “Give thanks” – prayer hands
 - “no matter what happens” – wave hands back and forth
 - “God” – point to the sky
 - “wants you” – point to each other
 - “to thank Him” – prayer hands
 - “because you believe in Christ Jesus.” – make a cross with your arms.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – place hands together like a book
- Repeat, saying the verse with the motions, as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“We can give thanks to God no matter what happens. Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you. If you don’t say it and you don’t show it, no one will know it! So let’s remember to show gratitude and **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.**”

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Small notebook, pens, index cards, GodTime cards

What You Do:

- Give each kid one index card.
- Ask each kid to draw or write one thing they want to thank God for. (It can be one of the same things they drew on their “Camera of Thanks.”)
- As the kids are working, write one thing you want to thank God for inside the notebook.
- Collect the cards and ask kids to share about their card and what they drew.
- As they share, write a few words to remind yourself what kids’ drawings are about.
- Make sure you hold onto this notebook or store it somewhere in your group’s room, as you will add to it each week this month to create a gratitude journal.

What You Say:

“This month we’re going to create a gratitude journal to help us remember and focus on the things we’re thankful for. We’ll add something different each week as we pray together. Remember, we need to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.** One way we can do that is by telling Him that we’re thankful. How do we talk to God? (*Pause.*) That’s right! We pray. So let’s pray together.

“Heavenly Father, we love You so much. Thank You for ALL You’ve done for us. You made us. You love us. You sent Jesus and gave us Your Word, the Bible. You’ve given us family and friends to love. Thank You for all the ways You take care of us. Help us to remember to say thank you this week. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Prompt kids to show their “Camera of Thanks” to the adults as they arrive. Remind them to put their “cameras” on their bedside tables and to thank God for one of the things they’ve drawn each night before they go to sleep. Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up.

Give kids this week’s GodTime card to take home and give parents the monthly Parent Cue Card.