

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

BIBLE DISCOVERY

"Learning to Express Thanks to God"

Recommended for: All

- LESSON AIM:** To realize how thankful we should be to God for everything.
- MEMORY VERSE:** *"Offer unto God thanksgiving . . . "* Psalm 50:14a
- SUPPLIES:** Younger Children: Teddy bear, paper plates, pre-cut magazine pictures, glue, crayons, glitter, yarn and hole punch.
- Older Children: 3 x 5 cards, pencils.
-



OPENING:

Younger Children: Play "The Thankful Game." Begin playing music (try to find a tape on being thankful"). Have one child begin by passing a teddy bear to the child on his left and so on as the music plays. Stop the music, and have the child with the teddy bear share something they are thankful for, with the class.

Older Children: Provide 3 x 5 cards and pencils for each child. Have the children write one sentence stating something they are thankful for, such as, food, a place to live, parents. Have the children put their cards in a hat or basket. Mix up the cards then pass them around. Have each child take a card and read it aloud.

NOTE: Discuss how we please the Lord when we're thankful. Have the children discuss ways we could be more thankful for little things we sometimes take for granted. (i.e., life itself, health, water, electricity, our freedom to worship God, a beautiful country).



BIBLE DISCOVERY:

Younger Children:

Talk to the children as they are doing their activity. Let them know that God is teaching you, as their leader, to be thankful for areas of your own life.

Older Children:

Psalm 105:1 *"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!"* NKJV

Have one or more kids in the class read the story about Jesus healing ten lepers (Luke 17:11-18). Discuss with them, how only one man came back to say "Thank you" to Jesus.

Ask the class if anyone has ever received a blessing or healing from the Lord. Have they always remembered to thank Him? Use an instance in your life as an example to help get the discussion started.

It is important that we learn to thank the Lord for the many things in our lives. Even when things aren't going well, that is the best time to stop and thank Him. It helps us to remember that God really cares and knows our needs.



ACTIVITY: Use the following activities to emphasize thankfulness for the many things the Lord does in our lives.

Younger Children: Make wall hangers using paper plates.

a) Have the children choose from pre-cut pictures of food, animals, clothes, pictures of creation, cars, houses, etc. to paste in the center of the plate. Be sure to have plenty to choose from and more than one kind of picture of the same things (more than one picture of a family).

b) At the top of the plate write or have the children write "Thank you God for . . ." (whatever picture they picked).

c) Have the children color or decorate the rims and the other side of their plates with crayons, stickers or glue and glitter.

d) Punch a hole in the top of the plate. Cut a piece of yarn and thread it through the hole so that the plates can be hung.

Older Children:

Option #1- Have the class complete the activity page (pattern provided).

Here are the answers:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 6. Healed |
| 2. Samaria | 7. Returned |
| 3. Away | 8. Thank you |
| 4. Ten | 9. Arise |
| 5. Have mercy | |

Option #2-

Don't Know What You've Got 'Til It's Gone. To get into a discussion of everyday blessings we take for granted, try “depriving” the group with one or more of these activities.

- Play one of your group's favorite games, but do it without good equipment. For example: play volleyball or kick-ball with a half-deflated ball, or Monopoly with half the pieces missing.
- Turn off the electrical power to your meeting place.
- Serve meager snacks like plain crackers, or bring just enough snacks for half the group.

SNACK: Have different kinds of snacks for each child. (Something that can be shared, M&M's, carrot sticks, cheese cubes, pretzels, etc.) Have the children share their different snack with one another. Make sure the children are expressing their thanks to each other for sharing.



CONCLUSION: Have a prayer over the snacks before the children partake. At the end, the children can give thanks to the Lord for one thing in their life they are thankful for.

"Being Thankful" Puzzle

Look up the verse and fill in the blanks to find the hidden message.

1.		—	—		—	—	—	
2.			—		—	—	—	—
3.		—	—	—				
4.					—	—	—	
5.					—	—	—	—
6.			—	—		—	—	—
7.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8.		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.			—	—	—	—		

Luke 17:11-18 NJKV

1. _____ was on His way to Jerusalem.
2. He stopped in the village of _____.
3. Men who were lepers stood _____ from Jesus.
4. There were how many lepers? _____
5. They called to the Lord to _____ on them.
6. The lepers were _____.
7. One of them _____ to Jesus.
8. He told Jesus _____ for cleansing me.
9. Jesus commanded the one man to _____. Your faith has made you whole.