

Younger and Older Kids

Mandatory Items: Please do not omit the first 3 items.

Lesson from God's Word:

Adlib the story of Paul and Silas in prison, from Acts 16:16-36. Have a narrator read the text while children silently act out the various "parts" representing the people in the Bible account.

You will need: Paul, Silas, people in the crowd, the jailer, the slave girl, the owners of the slave girl, the magistrates.

After the passage is done being read, ask:

- *What were Paul and Silas thrown into prison for? (Healing a girl who had an evil spirit.)
- *What happened after the slave owners dragged them off? (They were stripped and beaten/flogged, then thrown into prison (verses 22 and 23)).
- *What did they do while they were in prison?
- *Does their response surprise you? What do you think your response would be?
- *How does God bless them for their thankfulness?
- *How might this story have been different if they would have sat in there and complained about what had happened?
- *Should knowing Jesus as your Savior make it easier to praise Him during the hard times? How?

Connection to Christ & Gospel Presentation:

Even though Paul and Silas had been mistreated, beaten and thrown in jail, they still found reason to praise God. No matter what happens to us, we can find

reason to praise and thank God too. God is good, and He is with us, no matter what is going on in our lives. Mostly, we have Jesus to be thankful for, just like Paul and Silas. Jesus willingly came and gave His life to pay the price for our sin and when we ask Him to forgive our sin and make Him the Lord of our lives, we have everything to be thankful for, no matter what happens in our lives. Paul and Silas knew Jesus as their Lord and Savior and that made all the difference for them in jail that night. Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If you don't, you can pray now and make Him that and then you will have something to be thankful for, no matter what happens in your life, because You will have Jesus to be right there with you through the good times and the bad times. If you're ready, you can pray with me now.

Dear Jesus, I thank You so much for Your goodness. I thank You for coming to die on the cross to pay the price for my sin. I ask You, Lord, to forgive me and wash me clean. Come into my heart. I want to make You the Lord of my life. Thank You for saving me and for promising to always be with me, no matter what. I want to thank You and praise You forever, no matter what happens to me. Amen.

Memory Verse:

"Do not cease giving thanks." Ephesians 1:16

Turkey Scramble. The class will be separated into groups. Each group will have several pieces of a turkey. A body/head and 7 feathers. One word of the verse/reference will be written on each feather. The kids will race to put them in order and then stand to say the verse together. Each team must also say "Gobble, gobble" at the end (just for fun). Give time for each team to finish and say their verse.

Optional/Extra Ideas:

Game:

"Flip your complaints into thanks"

Materials: Circles cut out of cardstock or cardboard. On one side will be written "complaint" and on the other "thanks." spatula

Directions: Divide the class into 2 teams. Each team will take turns sending one player down to the opposite side of the room to use the spatula to flip the “pancake” from a complaint to a thanks, then run back and hand the spatula off to the next person.

Activity:

Materials: paper, markers, crayons, papers with situations that would invoke complaining

Directions: Kids can do this in pairs, groups or as individuals, however you choose. Give each kid, pair, group a piece of paper and a paper with a complain-inducing situation. The kids/pairs/groups will then think of as many things as they can to be thankful for that situation and write them or draw them on the back of their paper. They will have 5 minutes to “flip” their complaint into a thanks, then they can take turns sharing what is on their paper with the other kids.

Some examples of complain-inducing situations: doing homework, doing chores, waiting in line, getting served food you don’t like, traveling a long way, not getting something you want, someone else getting more of something than you