

Never Forget to Say Thank You
Thanksgiving Themed Bible Study Lesson

Younger and Older Kids

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

Lesson from God's Word:

You'll need a prop for the child playing Jesus (a Biblical-looking robe, a black beard or a mustache, and Kleenex to put over the "lepers'" arms and head. Pick 10 children to be the lepers and assign one of those 10 to be the thankful leper and assign another child to be Jesus and the .) If you want you can ask one of the kids or adults to be Jesus, and tell them what to say.

Say: What holiday is coming up next? That's right. Thanksgiving! What's it about? (lead short discussion.) Is it easy or hard to remember to say thank you? Did you know Jesus healed some folks from a terrible disease and most of them forgot to say thank you? They did. We're going to learn about that today and use it as a reminder to always say thank you.

Say: I want you all to act out a Bible story with me about a miracle Jesus did. (Give the ten children the Kleenex.) O.K. guys, that is your leprosy. Put it on your skin. Now you're all lepers. See the spots? Leprosy is a horrible disease. It starts to look ugly and you lose feeling in your skin. Soon you might be paralyzed. Sound nice? They had it a lot more in Bible times than they do now. People that were lepers had to leave their families and their friends because if they stayed, other people would catch the disease! Sound like fun?

Now I need you to act out this story silently as I read it.

Read Luke 17: 11-19

Thanks guys, wow, you were amazing. How does it feel to be healed of your leprosy. Is it a relief? Good.

Ask:

1. How do you think those lepers felt to be completely healed from that terrible disease? Do you think they felt like celebrating?
2. Why do you think some of them left Jesus out of their celebrations? In what ways do we do that same thing in our lives? What about at Christmastime?

It is very easy to forget all about saying thank you, isn't it? But, we must remember to say thank you! God has given us every single thing we have in our lives. He has given us the very air we breathe and we need to thank Him with our every breath.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Ask:

1. Why do you think it's important to say thank you? Offer these possible reasons, along with those the kids come up with: It helps us stay grateful. It helps remind us that all we have comes from God. It pleases God for us to thank Him for His gifts.
2. How do we give thanks in all we do. Who can give me an example?
3. How do you feel when you're thanking someone? How about when you're complaining? Which makes you feel better? Which do you think honors God?
4. How can you make sure you are thankful this Christmas season and throughout the year?

Say: When we thank God it helps us remember that everything we have comes from Him and it helps us think of all the great things God has given us. Think of what He gave to the lepers and only 1 thanked Him.

Connection to Christ & Gospel Presentation:

Jesus healed those lepers of a terrible disease. While we don't typically deal with leprosy anymore, every human on earth has been affected by the disease of sin.

Once again, though, Jesus offers what we need to be healed. He died on the cross so that we could be completely healed and forgiven from all of our sin.

If you have never asked Him to forgive your sin, you can do that today, simply by praying and asking Him. Pray with me now, if you're ready.

Dear Jesus, thank You that You bring healing to people's bodies and to their souls. Lord, my soul is full of sin and I am so sorry for that. I ask You today to forgive that sin and make me Your child. Thank You for healing me! I want to follow You always!

Memory Verse:

"He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him." Luke 17:16

Divide the class into two teams. One should say, "He threw himself at Jesus' feet" and the other team should respond "and thanked Him." Then, they should say, Luke 17:16. Do it this way a few times and then have the teams switch what they say.

Optional/Extra Ideas:

Game:

Materials: Beach ball with a word on each "section" For, examples of what the words will be: Jesus, God, family, church, friends, food, house, love.

Directions: The kids can take turns tossing the ball in a circle. When you say stop, they must stop and place their finger on the ball. They should say a prayer of thanksgiving for whatever thing they put their finger on. For example, if they touch church, they should say "Thank you God for my church."

Activity/Craft:

Materials: Index cards, glue or tape, corn kernels

Say: There is a legend that says during the first thanksgiving all the pilgrims had to eat were a few kernels of corn. Today, we are going to use corn to help us remember to be thankful.

Directions: Have kids write "I am thankful for..." on the blank side of their index card. Then, have kids think of things they are thankful for. For each thing they are thankful for, they should glue or tape one kernel of corn onto their card. They can write what they stand for, or they can just use the kernels as symbols.