



# Giving Thanks to God

*We should give thanks to God for who he is and what he's done.*

## *Lesson Focus*

All good gifts come from God. We can thank God for who he is and what he's done when we praise him in song and prayer.

## *Key Passages*

James 1:17; Psalm 100:1–5

## *Memory Verse*

**Psalm 100:4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

# Prepare to Share

## Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Thanksgiving is a time of showing appreciation for the blessings we have. We may go around the table and share things we're grateful for, things like family, friends, health, job, or highlights from the past year. But how often do we stop and just thank God for who he is and what he has done? James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." We see here that all our blessings come from God—every good and perfect gift. We also see an important attribute, or quality, of God—his immutability. To be immutable means that God will never change. Other verses speak of God's immutability (see Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:25–27; Hebrews 13:8). Unlike the capricious false gods of other religions, we can count on God to keep his word and remain true to his character. The character of God helps us know and praise him for who he is.

Many of the Psalms give thanks and praise to God for who he is—his attributes. Psalm 33:2–5 gives thanks to the Lord for his faithfulness, righteousness, justice, and steadfast love. Psalm 100 is an

exuberant song of thanksgiving to God our Maker and Shepherd who is good and whose love and faithfulness last forever. Without the love, righteousness, and faithfulness of the Lord, we would have no hope or salvation. Psalm 100 was associated with thank offerings and may have been sung when offerings were being presented on the altar.

The psalms also praise God for the things he has done. David begins Psalm 9 by recounting the wonderful deeds of the Lord, and we can follow this example. Remembering God's faithfulness to us in the past strengthens our faith in the present. It is all too easy to focus on our problems and lose our gratefulness instead of focusing on God.

Psalm 95 describes God as "the rock of our salvation" (v.1) and "a great King above all gods" (v.3), and then gives an overview of his power over creation (vv.4–5). The earth and everything in it are his because he is the Creator.

Our response to discovering more about who God is and what he has done should lead to joyful praise and grateful prayer. Singing to God is one way to express thanksgiving to him. Another way is to thank him specifically in prayer. Pray the psalms back to God, praising him for who he is and thanking him for all he has done.

## Historical/Apologetics Background

The titles, names, and descriptions of God are worthy of further examination. Let's look at three mentioned in this lesson: Creator, Shepherd, and King. Many psalms emphasize God as Creator. While the Psalms are poetic rather than narrative writings, they contain historical truth and verify the Genesis account of creation. Psalm 104 gives praise to God for his greatness and power to create. The chapter even parallels the days of creation in Genesis, while covering other good things God made for man (e.g., water, food, wine, and oil). Psalm 95:5 proclaims that God made the sea and dry land, and Psalm 8:3 examines God's creation of the heavens, moon, and stars. Psalm 33:6–7 show that God created by the power of his word. Then God created mankind. Psalm 100:3 says, "It is he who made us, and we are his." Because God is our Creator, he is the ultimate authority. We answer to him. This is why

biblical creation is under attack. Man wants to make his own rules and live free of God's laws. But we can only be truly free when we repent and come to God in faith and humility.

The Bible accurately tells us that "we all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). The Bible often refers to people as sheep: prone to wander, helpless against predators, and dirty with sin. Sheep are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible! However helpless we are, we can be thankful that we have a good Shepherd—Jesus! Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). That's exactly what Jesus did for us. He died on the cross, laying his life down willingly so we can be saved by faith in him. Those who accept the gift of salvation offered through Jesus belong to God and are called his sheep (Psalm 100:3), and he will care for

them (Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11) and give them eternal life. This is cause for thanksgiving and worship!

As a good shepherd, God also takes responsibility for his sheep. Sheep learn to follow the voice of their shepherd. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one” (John 10:27–30). Jesus promised to give eternal life to his sheep and to protect them from the ultimate predator, Satan. The analogy of shepherd and sheep in the Bible was readily understood by people during Bible times, and it can com-

fort and encourage us today to know that God is our Shepherd, who provides, protects, and saves us.

Finally, God is our King. Psalm 95:3 says, “For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.” God is the eternal king from creation (Psalm 74:12) to forever (Psalm 29:10). As King, God has power, authority, and control over all creation, including us. He is sovereign, and he will reign with justice and righteousness (Psalm 33:5; Isaiah 32:1). The Bible tells us that a day is coming when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10–11). All people will one day recognize God as the great King and Jesus as Lord. Let us remember to thank him today!

## Unit 19 Grace Group (Sunday School) & Children's Church Activities

3s-K Grace Groups, 3s-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Children's Church

Date & Lesson	Grace Group Activity Options	Children's Church Activity Options
November 23, 2025  Thanksgiving Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Pumpkin</li> <li>Echo! Echo!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turkey Hunt Review Game</li> <li>Thank You Candle</li> </ul>
November 30, 2025  Advent Lesson?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD</li> </ul>
December 7, 2025  Christmas 1A Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bag of Bows Review Game</li> <li>Gift Go Around</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Echo! Echo!</li> <li>Christmas Bingo</li> </ul>
December 14, 2025  Christmas 1B Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freeze!</li> <li>Ornament from Oriental Trading (see below)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quick Christmas Cleanup</li> <li>Christmas Poster</li> </ul>
December 21, 2025  Christmas Lesson 2B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Game Cards</li> <li>Missing Gift Game</li> <li>Gift Certificate (from Christmas Lesson 2A)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Popcorn Memory Verse Game</li> <li>Decoration Dash</li> </ul>
December 28, 2025  Christmas Lesson 2A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas Card Match</li> <li><i>Another activity to be provided</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Present</li> <li><i>Another activity to be provided</i></li> </ul>

December 14 Grace Group Crafts:



3s-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Memory Verses For Children's Church (November-December 2025)

\*Verses are in ESV Translation

Date	3's-PreK	Kindergarten	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Nov 23	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"
Nov 30	Psalm 4:8 "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; <b>for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.</b> "	R 2.1-2 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."	Psalm 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."	Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Dec 7	Genesis 9:13 " <b>I [God] have set My bow in the cloud,</b> and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."	R 2.3 "...Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." 1 John 4:14 "... The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world."	Mark 16:15 "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'"	1 John 4:15 "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."
Dec 14	Luke 2:11 " <b>For unto you is born this day...a Savior,</b> who is Christ the Lord."	R 2.4 "... These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ..."	1 Peter 1:25 "But the word of the Lord remains forever..."	Romans 5:8 "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Dec 21	Luke 2:10-11 <b>And the angel said to them, "...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."</b>	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	John 1:1 Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Dec 28	Luke 2:10-11 <b>And the angel said to them, "...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."</b>	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

# Turkey Hunt Review Game

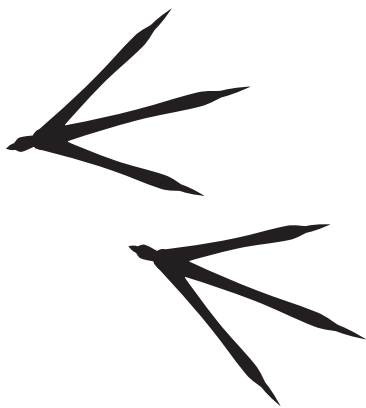
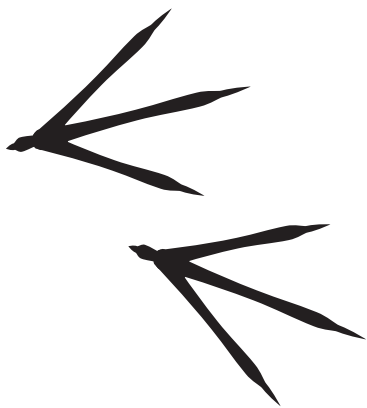
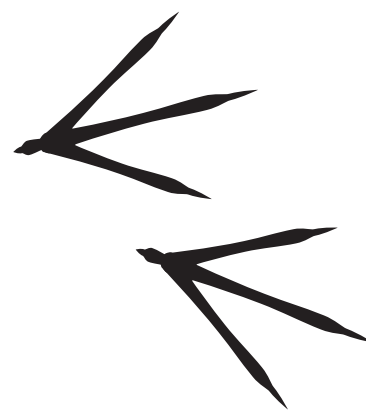
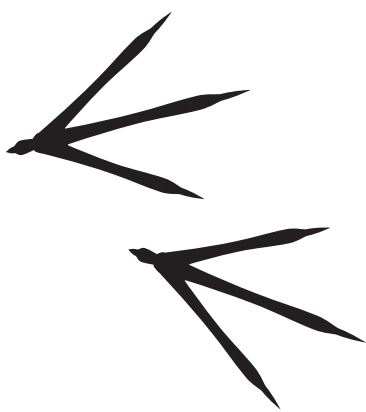
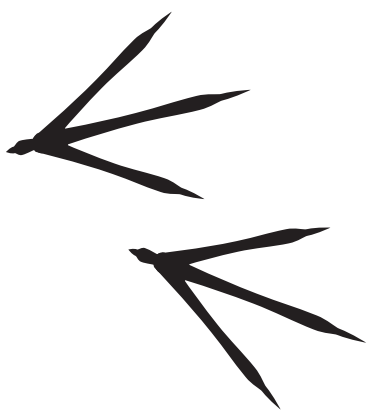
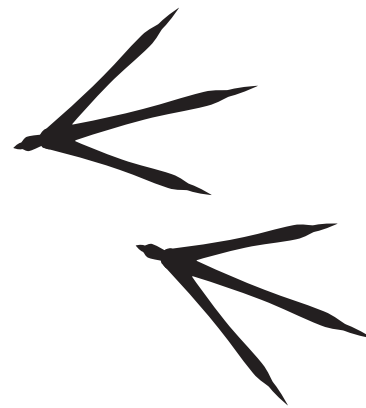
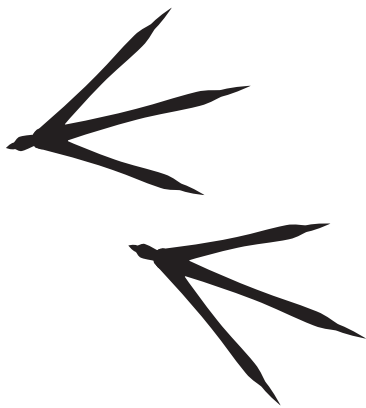
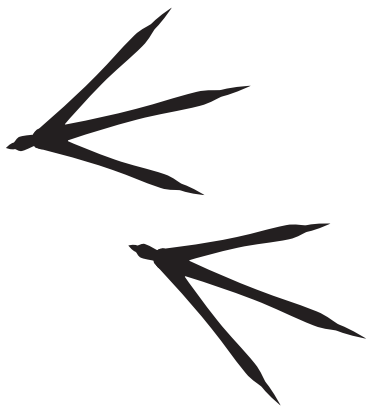
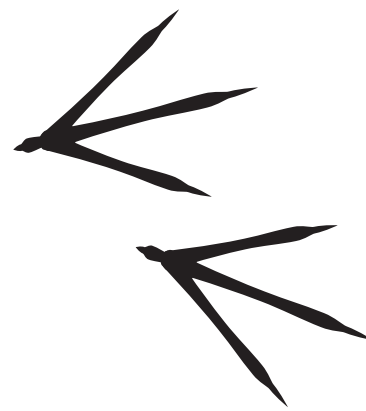
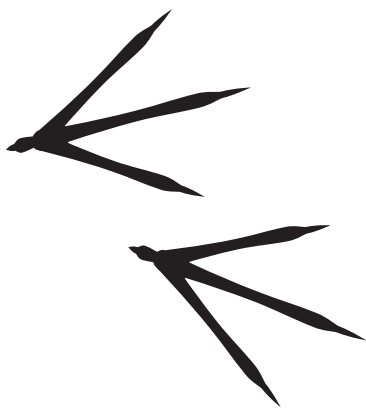
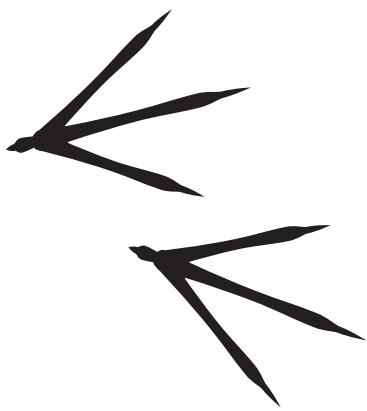
## Materials

- ☐ Small paper bag
- ☐ Small wrapped candies
- ☐ Turkey Feathers (following pages)
- ☐ Turkey Footprints (following pages)
- ☐ Tape

## Instructions

*Before class: Fill a small paper bag with candies, fold the top down to seal it closed. Draw a turkey face on one end (eyes, beak, wattle). Hide the turkey in your classroom. Print and cut out the Turkey Feathers with the review questions on them. Hide the feathers around the room. Print and cut out enough of the Turkey Footprints to tape on the floor as a path leading to each feather. Save some footprints to lead to the turkey bag after the last feather.*

*Lead the class around the room, following the footprints to each feather. As you come to a feather, ask the review question on the feather. When it is answered correctly, follow the footprints to the next feather. After all the review questions are answered, follow the last footprints to the turkey bag and share the candy inside.*



Print and cut out enough footprints for the path according to your classroom space.

**1. What are some ways we can give thanks to God?** *Singing praise, praying, telling others what he's done.*

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**2. Who gives us everything we need?** *God.*

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**3. What kind of noise does the Bible say we should make to praise God? Sad or joyful?** *Joyful.*

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**4. How should we serve the Lord? With grumpiness or gladness?** *With gladness.*

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**5. When we obey with gladness, does that just mean we stick a smile on our face or be glad from our heart?** *Be glad from our heart.*





**6. We are like sheep and God  
is our what?** *Shepherd.*

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**7. Who did God send to rescue us  
from the punishment of sin?** *Jesus.*

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**8. What is it called when  
we talk to God?** *Prayer.*

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**9. God is always good. How long  
does his love last?** *Forever.*

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**10. What should we remember  
to do for God every day?**  
*Praise, thank, pray, obey.*

# Thank You Candle

## Materials

- ☐ Maple leaf tags (following page)
- ☐ Wide-mouth canning jars (pint)
- ☐ Variety of popcorn kernels, dried beans, lentils, peas, etc.
- ☐ Spoons or small scoops
- ☐ Bowls
- ☐ Votive or tea light candles or LEDs
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Ribbon or raffia in fall colors
- ☐ Crayons



## Instructions

*Print on card stock and cut out one maple leaf tag for each student. Pour each kind of dried beans, etc. into separate bowls for students to share. Have students color their leaf tag and set aside.*

*Pass out one canning jar to each student. Have the students scoop one color at a time of the dried beans, etc. into their jar, layering the different colors. Fill the jars about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. Place the candle into the center of the beans, gently pushing it down so it is stable.*

*Tie a length of ribbon or raffia around the jar near the top. Use a dot of glue to hold it in place. Glue the leaf tag to the center of the ribbon or directly onto the jar.*

## Suggested Discussion

**?** Who can tell me what the tag on your candle says? *Thank you, God!*

You can take this candle home and ask your mom and dad to light it on Thanksgiving Day. Remember to thank God for all the things he has done for you and given to you and your family.

