



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Thank God for all he has done.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to thank God for all he has done.

KEY PASSAGE:

Job 1

MEMORY VERSE:

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1
NIV

SUMMARY:

If anyone had a right to complain, it might have been Job. By all accounts he was a good man who loved the Lord. So why did the Lord allow Job to be tested? That's a question Job himself never asked. Job shows us that whether we have a lot or a little, God is worthy of our thanks and praise.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

You are worthy of our thanks and praise.

In Jesus' name,
Amen



MEMORY VERSE

Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.
Psalm 136:1 (NirV)

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1
NIV

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Psalm
136:1 (NLT)

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. Psalm
136:1 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Memory Verse Gobble

The children will stand in a circle facing one another. The teacher says the reference for the memory verse. The game travels around the circle with each child saying the next word to come in the verse. If the child says an incorrect word or does not know the next word they sit down. The verse continues around the circle until the final word is said and then the next child says “Gobble” to finish the verse. The child who says “Gobble” also sits down. The children continue to play with the verse until only one child stands who is the winner.

SMALL GROUP:

Memory Verse Hot Potato

Pass around an object designated as the hot potato. Each person will say one word of the verse as they pass it around. The teacher will randomly say “hot potato.” When that happens, whoever is holding the potato must say the whole verse. Play as time and interest allow.



SKIT PAGE 1

ITEMS NEEDED:

Several pieces of copy paper taped together and rolled like a scroll

“20 minutes later” sign

Chair

Phone

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 female, 1 male

CHARACTERS:

Gia - older cousin

Jude - younger cousin

Grandma (voice from off stage)

(Cousins after a Thanksgiving meal. Gia is sitting in a room when Jude enters with a giant piece of paper rolled up like a scroll.)

JUDE: Gia, I’ve done it!

GIA: Oh no! Jude, sweet little cousin of mine, please don’t let this be like a few years back when I had to explain that you drew on the walls while I was researching fair allowance wages based on age and maturity in adolescence.

JUDE: That was sooooo boring. What else was I supposed to do?

GIA: Not that. Besides, if I hadn’t done that research, I wouldn’t have gotten my allowance raise and I would have never gotten that sweet new video game system that I let you play all the time!

JUDE: (Sighs) Ugh. That’s true, I guess. Anyway, back to what I did.

GIA: I’m afraid to ask, but what did you do?

GRANDMA: (From off stage) Kids! It’s pumpkin pie time!

JUDE: We’d better go! There won’t be anything left if we don’t hurry!



SKIT PAGE 2

(Gia and Jude walk off stage. Jude leaves the giant paper on the chair. After five seconds, Gia and Jude walk back in with Gia holding the sign.)

GIA: (Sitting down in the chair.) Grandma makes the best pumpkin pie! Ahh! (Notice the paper.) Jude, what is this?

JUDE: (Frustrated) That's what I've been trying to tell you about for the last 30 minutes! GIA: Well, I'm ready, so tell me now.

JUDE: Well –

(Phone beeps. Jude crosses his arms and rolls his eyes.)

GIA: Sorry, it's my bestie. Let me text her back. It will take just a second.

(Gia mimes typing, then pauses, then types very quickly, then holds her finger up in the air and very slowly mimes hitting send.)

GIA: There!

JUDE: No more interruptions?

GIA: No more interruptions. Please tell me why you've created something that looks like it belongs in the Guinness World Record Book.

JUDE: I have created the ultimate, best, most perfect, awesome Christmas list! All my dreams will be coming true. After I give this list to the family you'll have to have your imaginary cousin come and play with you because I will be way too busy!

GIA: Jude, my dude! The turkey's not even cold yet! You can't start thinking about Christmas already!

JUDE: What do you mean? Why not? There's already Christmas stuff in all the stores. I've already chosen my favorite Christmas commercial of the season, and the Amazon catalog came in the mail yesterday. How can it not be time to think about Christmas?



SKIT PAGE 3

GIA: Slow down! Let's pause for a second. What holiday are we celebrating today?

JUDE: Turkey Day! So what?

GIA: Not so fast. What is this holiday really called?

JUDE: (Sighs) Thanksgiving.

GIA: And what two words make up that word?

JUDE: Thanks and giving?

GIA: You got it! Now, have you done anything to actually give thanks today?

JUDE: I thanked Great Aunt Linda for not making me watch the dog contest.

GIA: (Shakes head) That wasn't exactly what I was going for, but it's a start. I think to help you get a better grip on what I'm talking about, I will tell you a story from the Bible that I just learned.

JUDE: Gia, I can't learn a 7th grader story! I'm only nine!

GIA: Jude, the Bible is for everyone. I promise you'll get this. Here I go. Once there was a man named Job who was rich beyond his wildest dreams. He had everything. And he loved God. One day, Satan came up to God and said that the only reason Job loved God was because God protected him. God knew that wasn't true. He allowed Job to lose all of his children and his livestock. He was devastated.

JUDE: That's a terrible story with a terrible ending! How's that supposed to help me?

GIA: That wasn't the ending. Let me finish! The ending is that Job didn't question why God let this happen, he only fell to his knees to worship.

JUDE: How could he do that? Wouldn't he be too sad?

GIA: You know, I thought the exact same thing when I heard this story the first time. Here's the secret: Job was able to thank God for all He had done because Job trusted God and remembered all the ways God had cared for him in the past. Job chose to look on the sunny side. He chose to look at what he still did have.



SKIT PAGE 4

JUDE: That sounds impossible. I would be way too sad.

GIA: Hear me out. I'm not saying that Job wasn't sad. You can be sad and thankful at the same time.

JUDE: Whoa! You just blew my mind!

GIA: So, about this list of yours. While it's not wrong to ask for things, before you do that, how can you make sure that you're being grateful for what you already have?

JUDE: Hmmm...Maybe I could take better care of the things I already have?

GIA: Yep. I've seen your room.

JUDE: I could give away the things I don't really play with to someone who doesn't have as much because they will be more thankful for it than I am.

GIA: Jude! That's a great idea! Can you think of anything else?

JUDE: I'm stuffed...I mean stuck.

GIA: Make sure you thank God for all you have. And maybe wait a day or two before demanding Christmas presents from everyone.



OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

Hello! Welcome! Happy Thanksgiving! What a wonderful holiday! We get to pause from school and work and all the craziness. We take the time to think about everything we have to be thankful for. Hopefully, we also get to eat some tasty food!

Today, I want to help us practice the art of gratitude with an object lesson. Usually, when I come up here for an object lesson, I have something with me to show you, but today is going to be a little different. I came up here with nothing to show you that even with as little as we think we have, we have so much to be thankful for.

So, to show you what I mean, I need your help. I'm going to set a timer. Then, we're going to look around this room and see how many things we can think of to be thankful for in 3 minutes. Are you ready? Let's go!

(Keep a tally of how many things the kids came up with. Feel free to change the timer to longer or to do several shorter rounds, if time allows.)

That was so much fun! And I'm feeling so thankful! That's the cool thing about learning to be thankful is that you start to see things in a new way. When you feel thankful, don't keep it to yourself! Thank God for all He has done and all the good things He has given us!



LARGE GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Turkey Waddle Relay

ITEMS NEEDED:

Several balloons

INSTRUCTIONS:

Break kids up evenly into teams. Invite teams to line up on one side of the room. One person from each team will put a balloon in between their legs and waddle to the other side of the room and back before passing the balloon on to the next player on their team. Repeat until all players have gone. The first team to get all their players there and back wins.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Just like it was really hard to keep that balloon in between your legs, it can be really hard to remember to always be thankful.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

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KEY PASSAGE:

Job 1

INTRO:

Have you ever had one of those times in your life when you felt like everything was going your way? What do you do in those times? Some people might decide that they earned it. That's called pride. Others might hoard or obsess over what disaster will strike that will take it all away from them. That's called worry.

Did you know there's a better way to respond when all is well? We're supposed to thank God for all he has done. We have not earned one single thing that we have. God has given it all to us out of his great big love for us.

Now, what about the other side of things? Have you ever gone through a rough patch where nothing seemed easy? Maybe it was even more serious, where you lost something important to you. What do you do in those times? Do you blame God for taking it away from you? Or do you praise Him anyway?

Today, we are going to read a story about a man that the Bible calls "blameless." That means he pretty much did nothing wrong. Let's read to find out how he responded when he lost almost all that he had.

READ JOB 1

MAIN POINT:

Our main character, Job, had a pretty cushy life. He had a lot of money and a lot of land. But it wasn't just material things. He also had a large, happy family and servants to clean up all the messes. Sounds pretty great, right? Oh yeah, one more thing, he loved God!

One day, this all changed. God got a visit from some angels. Satan also came along. I can't imagine anyone was too happy about that. God started sharing about the blameless human, Job. Then, Satan lays down a challenge. He thinks that Job only



LARGE GROUP LESSON

loves God because of all the things he has been given. So, God gives Satan the power to test Job's faith by taking away "everything" Job has.

How do you think Job will react? (Take some answers from the audience.) How do you think you would respond if something like that happened to you? (Take answers from the audience.)

DRIVE IT HOME:

Before we go any further with this story, let's talk about what it meant for Job to tear his robe and shave his head. The tearing of robes and shaving of heads were normal in Job's culture. They were tradition. These acts showed Job's obedience to God even during the hardest time in his life. Some people say that tearing a robe represents the tear in your heart when losing a loved one. It expresses grief or sadness. People understand Job shaving his head to make himself more like a newborn baby, which ties into what he said at the end of the chapter.

What did Job do immediately after he fulfilled the mourning rituals of his day? He fell to the ground and worshiped God. What he says is really powerful:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.[c]
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be praised."

To sum it up, this means that Job recognized that God owes him nothing. He is not entitled to all of the things God gave him. Job recognized that God's way is not our way, so even though Job was in pain from all of his loss, he knew that he could still trust God.

God wants that for us too! He wants us to thank him in the good times and the bad times. He is worthy of our praise because He is a good God.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,
You are good, all the time. All the time You are good.
In Jesus' name, Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What's your favorite thing about Thanksgiving? (ex. Food, football, family, no school, etc.)

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Memory Verse Hot Potato

Pass around an object designated as the hot potato. Each person will say one word of the verse as they pass it around. The teacher will randomly say "hot potato." When that happens, whoever is holding the potato must say the whole verse. Play as time and interest allow.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

The ABCs of Thankfulness

As a class, you will work together to come up with something to be thankful for, 1 thing for each letter of the alphabet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

If Job lived today, what kinds of things do you think he would have bought with all of his riches?

What are some ways Job might've shown that he loved God?

What do you think Satan was doing when he traveled all around the earth?

Do you think it was easy or hard for Job to praise God at the beginning of this story?

Do you think it was easy or hard for Job to praise God at the end of this story?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Please help me to have faith like Job to be able to praise You no matter what.

In Jesus' name,
Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3RD-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What's your favorite thing about Thanksgiving? (ex. Food, football, family, no school, etc.)

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Memory Verse Hot Potato

Pass around an object designated as the hot potato. Each person will say one word of the verse as they pass it around. The teacher will randomly say "hot potato." When that happens, whoever is holding the potato must say the whole verse. Play as time and interest allow.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

The ABCs of Thankfulness

As a class, you will work together to come up with something to be thankful for, 1 thing for each letter of the alphabet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

When you think of people who are really rich like Job, who do you think of?

What do you think it means to fear God?

How do you think Job got so rich and comfortable?

What are some ways that our culture shows mourning when someone passes away?

Why didn't Job blame God for all that happened to him?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Please help me to have faith like Job to be able to praise You no matter what.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. What was the name of the man that our story is about today?

- A. Joe
- B. Joel
- C. Joss
- D. **Job**

2. How many children did Job have?

- A. 1
- B. 5
- C. **10**
- D. 15

3. Who came to the Lord?

- A. Angels
- B. Satan
- C. **Both A & B**
- D. None of the above

4. What did Job do after he heard all the bad news?

- A. Tore his robe
- B. Shaved his head
- C. Worshiped
- D. **All of the above**

5. Job blamed God for all the bad things that happened.

True or **False**

MAKE IT STICK

THANKS A LOT LESSON

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON:

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:
If anyone had a right to complain, it might have been Job. By all accounts, he was a good man who loved the Lord. So why did the Lord allow Job to be tested? That's a question Job himself never asked. Job shows us that whether we have a lot or a little, God is worthy of our thanks and praise. Job 1



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:
Ask your kids ...
When are some times that are easy to remember to praise God?
When are some times that are harder to remember to praise God?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:
Why do you think some people forget to thank God for all they have?
Who is somebody you know that is really good at being thankful?
What are some things you can do when you're not feeling thankful?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:
"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever."
Psalm 136:1 NIV



PARENT TIME:

Our culture makes it so hard to instill gratitude in our kids. Every billboard, commercial, and trip to the store opens our kids' eyes to the things they don't have but think they need. Like most things in life, gratitude takes practice. This week, find creative ways to practice gratitude. Maybe it's a silly camp song to say grace before a meal. It could be starting a gratitude journal or making a gratitude playlist. You could try spying things to be grateful for as you go for a walk or drive around town.



TAKE HOME

Blessing Bag

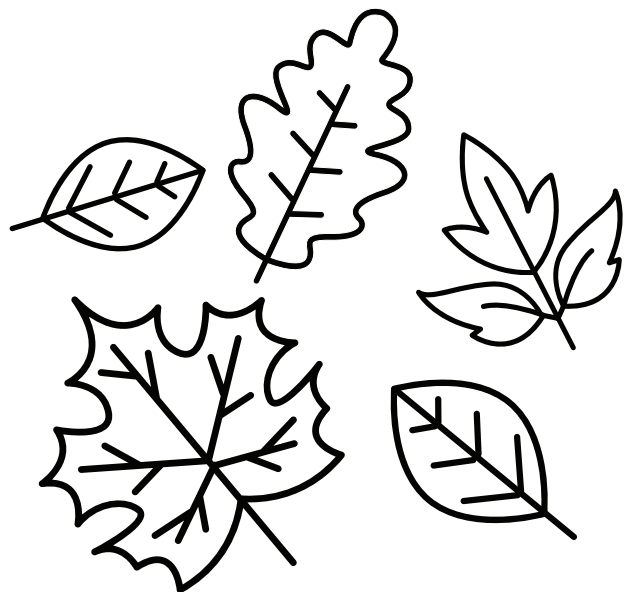
Items needed:

1 brown paper grocery bag per child

Instructions:

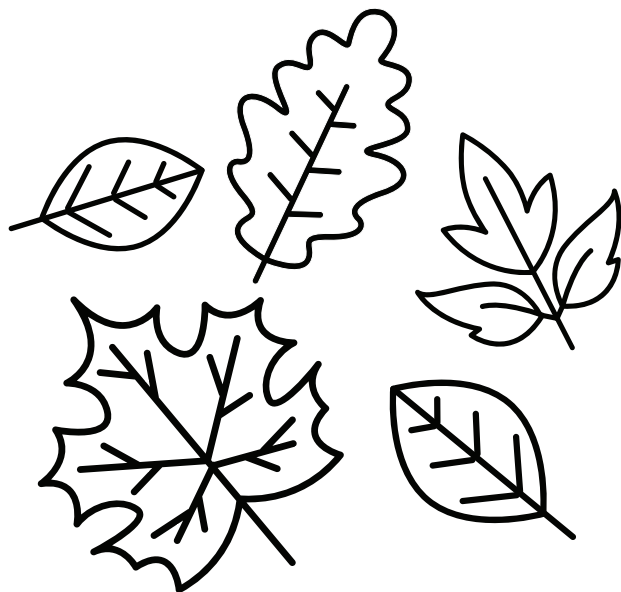
Explain that today everyone will decorate a blessing bag. Explain that a blessing bag is a bag full of things that people might need if they don't have a home. Kids will decorate their bags. Encourage them to draw things like crosses or to write things like, "Jesus loves you!" While they are decorating, help kids come up with ideas of good items to put in their blessing bags and remind them who the bags are for. Be sure to communicate with parents at pickup so that this can become a family activity.

***Note: If homelessness is not as big of an issue in your area, you can also encourage kids to take these to police stations or fire stations as well.



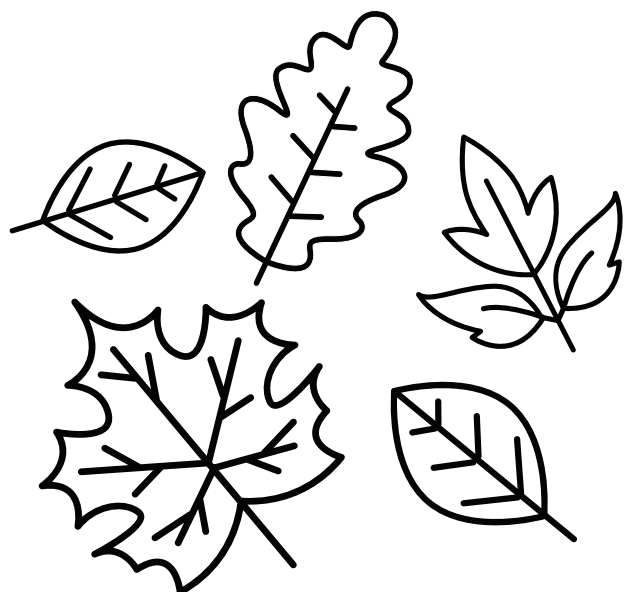
Give thanks to the LORD,
because he is good. His faithful
love continues forever.

Psalms 136:1 (NIRV)



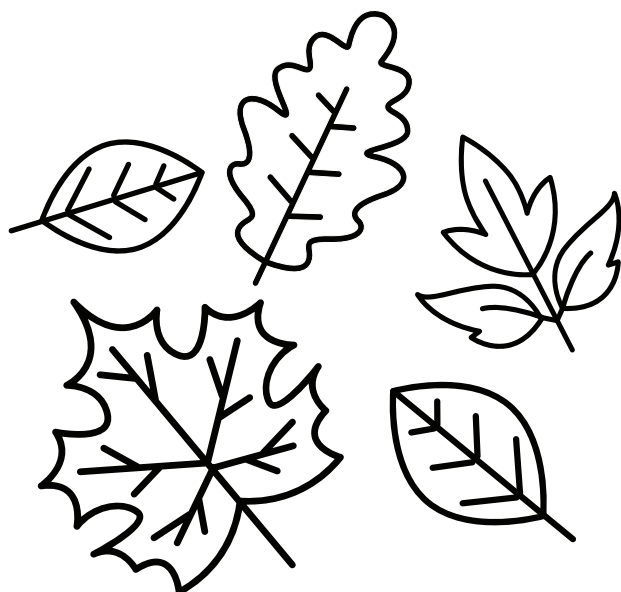
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