



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Give Thanks**  
Give Thanks No Matter  
What Happens  
1 Thessalonians 5:18

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You always have something  
to be grateful for.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Give thanks to the Lord,  
because he is good. His faithful  
love continues forever."**  
Psalm 136:1, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Gratitude—Letting others  
know you see how they've  
helped you**

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

### LARGE GROUP

#### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

#### STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

#### 1. OPENER/CLOSER

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Two pre-selected Small Group Leaders (see "What You Do")
- Printed script
- Large box or plastic bin filled with props for the game—for whichever prompts you plan to use:
  - Posterboard with a clock face drawn on it, with the hands showing 4:44
  - Two T-shirts (unfolded)
  - Two sets of tooth brushing items: (new) toothbrush, travel toothpaste, cup, water bottle
  - Two sets of dog bowl items: double dog bowl (with room for both food and water), small bag of dog food, water bottle
  - Two oranges
  - Two small adhesive bandages
- Dry erase board and marker (to keep score)

#### 3. BIBLE STORY

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Bible

##### MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "Jeopardy Theme Song" by Mount Royal Orchestra

##### LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Story Images
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)



WEEK  
**ONE**  
NOVEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE**      **SOCIAL**      **STORY**      **WORSHIP**      **GROUPS**      **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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What Happens  
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## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters.

Note: Host's shoes should be untied (for the game).

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hello, everyone! I hope you're excited for a brand-new month here at [your environment's name]. I know I am!

"I'm feeling extra-grateful today. I'm grateful to be here with all of you. I'm grateful for . . . (name some of your favorite things). This month, we're talking about how we can show our gratitude!

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE**

**"Gratitude is letting others know you see how they've helped you.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME**

"You see, it's not just about FEELING thankful. It's about SHOWING how grateful you are. Let me show you how easy it can be. I want to give a special shout-out to (name some Small Group Leaders in the room) . . . and ALL of our amazing Small Group Leaders. They come here to church to help you learn about God, every single Sunday. Let's give them a big hand!

Lead the kids in applause for their leaders.

"Did you see what I just did there? That's called a shout-out—when you point out something you're grateful for that someone else did. All month, we'll be finding out how we can show our gratitude to those around us. And a shout-out is a fantastic way to do just that.



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10 MINUTES

"For today's game, I'd like to bring two of our leaders on stage. Let's all give a big hand for [leader's name] and [leader's name]!"

*Two pre-selected Small Group Leaders come on stage.*

"[Leader #1's name] you're representing this side of the room. (Reference one side.) And [leader #2's name], you're representing this side. (Reference the other side.)"

(to audience) "I'd like to thank [leaders' names] in advance, because they've come up here to help me in lots of different ways."

*Set the box of props on the table.*

"I'll read off a series of ways that our friends here can help me. The first one to actually do what I've asked gets a point—and a shout-out. (to the two leaders) It might mean that you have to dig through this prop box to find what you need. (to audience) All of YOU can help by cheering for your leader. Sound good? Okay, let's get started!"

**AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

*Read the prompts from the printed script. You can use as many of these as you have time for. Be sure to start each one with "Shout-out to the first person who can . . ."*

*For each prompt, the two leaders should compete to see who can do the task first. Then Host say, "Shout-out to [leader's name]" and write a point for them on the dry erase board.*

"Shout-out to the first person who can . . . tie one of my shoes. (Note: Both of your shoes should already be untied.)"

"Tell me what time this is. (answer: 4:44 Note: For this one, you'll hold up the clock face posterboard.)"

"Show me how to do ten sit-ups."

"Show me how to roll up a T-shirt."

"Show me how to brush your teeth for 15 seconds, then spit."

*Note: For this one, the leaders will need to find the toothbrush, toothpaste, cup, and water bottle.*

"Sing the whole ABC song."

"Fill up my doggy's bowl with food and water."

*Note: For this one, the leaders will need to find the double dog bowl, dog food bag, and water bottle.*

"Tell me what 11 times 11 is. (answer: 121)"

"Put a bandage on my forehead."



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10 MINUTES

“Show me how to peel an entire orange—then take a bite.

“Make me laugh out loud.

“Wow, that was fun! [Leaders’ names], you really helped me in SO many different ways. Thank you. *(to audience)* Let’s give them a big hand!

*Applaud for the two leaders as they go back to their seats.*

“I’m so glad that we have people in our lives who can help us. We should always take time to thank them and let them know how grateful we are. We should take time to thank God, too, because God is always good . . . and always there to help us. It’s like we read in our memory verse for this month, Psalm 136:1.

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

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

“Let’s all stand up and thank God as we worship!”

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**



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10 MINUTES

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** “Hi, everyone! It’s great to be here with you. We’re talking about gratitude this month, and a fun way to share our gratitude to God is by singing. God is always faithful and always good. Let’s sing ‘Thank You God.’ Here we go!

**AUDIO:** “THANK YOU GOD” / TRACK 1 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME  
**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “THANK YOU GOD” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“Nice singing, everyone! It’s true—every minute of every day, we can live with gratitude to God. Before we continue in worship, let’s watch this.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

“We have a new song to teach you today. It’s called ‘I’m So Grateful.’ It’ll help us put our gratitude into action as we thank God for loving us. As we read in Psalm 147:7: ‘Sing to the Lord and give him grateful praise.’ (NirV) Let’s praise God today with grateful hearts. Sing along once you catch on.”

**AUDIO:** “I’M SO GRATEFUL” / TRACK 3 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU  
**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** “I’M SO GRATEFUL” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, everybody! I'm so excited to be with you today. THANK YOU for having me. Today, we're looking at a part of the Bible called First Thessalonians. *(Hold up Bible.)*

"First Thessalonians is actually a letter, like a lot of the books in the New Testament. These letters were written to the people in different churches . . . to help people understand how to follow Jesus and know what was true.

"The letter we call First Thessalonians was written by the apostle Paul to the people in Thessalonica. Paul and his friends had started a church there, but they weren't able to stay for very long. After they had left, Paul was worried about his friends and believers in Thessalonica. So he sent one of his friends, Timothy, to check on them."

### GIVE THANKS . . .

**STORYTELLER:** "Timothy traveled back to Thessalonica to check in on the church *(walk in place)* . . . and he stayed with them for quite a while. By the time he reported back to Paul *(walk in place)*, Paul had moved to a city called Corinth.

"Timothy told Paul that the people back in Thessalonica were staying strong in their faith. Here, do this with me. They were strong in their faith.

*Clasp your hands like you're praying and look up. Cue the audience to do this, too.*

"They showed great love for God and for each other.

*Put both hands over your heart, and cue the audience to do this, too.*

"But they missed Paul and wanted him to visit again.

*Stretch out both hands in front of you, and cue the audience to do this, too.*

*(looking just above the audience)* "We miss you, Paul!"

**AUDIENCE:** "We miss you, Paul!"

**STORYTELLER:** "But Paul couldn't leave his busy work in Corinth, so he wrote a letter to the Thessalonians instead.

"Paul wanted to encourage the people in Thessalonica. He reminded them that they could **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what** and that God would give them the strength they needed to keep going.

*Flex your biceps, and cue the audience to do this, too.*

"Toward the end of Paul's letter, he wrote this.



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Open the Bible to 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NirV) and read.

Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.

“That’s so good! Let me read it again.

Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.”

### NO MATTER WHAT

**STORYTELLER:** “Paul wanted the believers to understand that even if something bad happened, or if things weren’t easy, they could ALWAYS find reasons to be grateful.

“Let’s see what that might look like for us today. Remember, Paul wrote that we should ‘give thanks no matter what happens.’ So we’ll put a picture on the screen . . . and you can look for reasons in that situation why the person could choose to be thankful. Are you ready? Here’s our first example.

#### SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1A (SOCCER GAME)

“Okay, what do we have here? We have a girl playing soccer. But—oh, no—it looks like she missed her shot! She looks pretty angry and upset. But let’s look at the picture more closely. Even in this situation, there are things she can be grateful for! Why don’t we take 15 seconds to look for some of those things. Then you can raise your hand and tell me if you see something.

Give the kids 15 seconds to look at the picture.

#### AUDIO: “JEOPARDY THEME SONG” BY MOUNT ROYAL ORCHESTRA (JUST THE FIRST 15 SECONDS)

“All right, raise your hand if you see something she could be thankful for.

*Call on a few kids to comment on what the girl in the picture could be thankful for. Examples: Her team is cheering her on, even if she missed the goal. The adults have snacks waiting, so she’ll get a treat soon. Her family is holding up a sign—they love her no matter what.*

*Repeat what the kids say so everyone can hear. Mention any of these examples that the kids don’t say.*

*Note: It’s possible that a kid may say something about faith (she can be thankful because God loves her). If so, affirm what they said and reference it later when you teach the point about faith.*

“Great job, everyone! Those are all great reasons to be thankful, even when something bad happens. (Reference the screen.) It looks like she’s feeling a lot better now, even though she missed the goal.

#### SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1B (SOCCER GAME)

“Let’s look at another example.



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**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2A (MOVING DAY)**

"This boy's family is moving to a new town. That means a new school . . . finding new friends . . . and maybe leaving behind an activity that he loves. That can be really hard. It might be tempting for him to just think about all the things he's lost, or all the things that might be different. But let's search for things that he could be thankful for. I'll give you 15 seconds to look.

*Give the kids 15 seconds to look at the picture.*

**AUDIO: "JEOPARDY THEME SONG" BY MOUNT ROYAL ORCHESTRA (JUST THE FIRST 15 SECONDS)**

*As before, call on a few kids to comment on what the boy in the picture could be thankful for. Examples: There's a boy who could be a new friend. There's a nice park nearby. People from the neighborhood are walking up to say hi and help, so they're friendly.*

*Repeat what the kids say so everyone can hear. Mention any of these examples that the kids don't say.*

"You're really good at finding things to be thankful for! (Reference the screen.) And look. He's feeling much better.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2B (MOVING DAY)**

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

**GRATEFUL FOR JESUS**

**STORYTELLER:** "Remember, Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that they should 'give thanks no matter what happens.' If we look hard enough, we can always find reasons to be grateful. But the BIGGEST reason to be thankful is something that can't ever be taken away! Let me read Paul's words again.

*Open the Bible to 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NirV) and read.*

*Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.*

"Did you catch that? We can always be thankful, in any situation, because of Jesus!

"We believe that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. We believe that Jesus gave His life on the cross to pay the price for our sins so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever. We believe that Jesus loves us, and that He is with us no matter what! We also believe that God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us.

"Let's look at one last picture.

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3A (LONELY BOY)**

"It looks like this boy is feeling a little sad and lonely. I think we've all felt that way before. Take a look for 15 seconds and see if you can find a reason why he could be grateful.





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Give the kids 15 seconds to look at the picture.

**AUDIO: "JEOPARDY THEME SONG" BY MOUNT ROYAL ORCHESTRA (JUST THE FIRST 15 SECONDS)**

As before, call on a kid to comment on what the boy in the picture could be thankful for. They may come up with things to be thankful for, but the most important is the Bible that represents God's love and that the boy will never really be alone.

Repeat what the kids say so everyone can hear.

"It's so good to know how much God loves us! When we read God's Big Story in the Bible, we find out how God sent Jesus to be our Savior and our Friend. We can ALWAYS be grateful for Jesus.

(Reference the screen.) "Do you think it would help our friend here to think about Jesus?"

**SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3B (BOY, NOW READING THE BIBLE)**

"It sure does!

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Let's listen to what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, one more time.

Open the Bible to 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NirV) and read.

Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.

"No matter what happens in our lives, we can ALWAYS thank God. We can thank God for loving us. We can thank God for sending Jesus for us. We can be grateful because we know that God will make everything right in the end.

"Remember . . .

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"You always have something to be grateful for.**

"Let's take some time to thank God now. Will you pray with me?"

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, we can't thank You enough for how much You love us. You sent Jesus to be our Savior and our friend. You made a way for us to have a relationship with You that will last forever! Please help us find reasons to



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be thankful in our own lives, even when we're facing things that feel difficult or out of control. We know that You are ALWAYS there to help us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** “Isn’t it good to know that we can always find something to be grateful for? You did such a great job of that earlier when you looked at those different pictures. You kept looking until you found the good things in each situation that each person could thank God for.

“I know there are times in my life when it can be hard for me to remember to be grateful. When life gets hard or seems unfair, we just want to get angry or sad about it. But remember what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. We can CHOOSE to be thankful. I can do that, and you can, too!

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“You always have something to be grateful for.**

“All of us will have to face situations in life when things don’t our way. But even in those times, we can look around to find good things that God has given us. We can stop and remember to **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what.** And we can always, ALWAYS be thankful for Jesus. We can be thankful because Jesus loves us and is with us through anything—good or bad!

*Share a brief, kid-appropriate story of a time when you faced something difficult, but chose to be thankful because of your faith in God. (Or share about how you’ve seen someone else do that.)*

“Let’s head to Small Group now and talk about the biggest reason we can be grateful: because of our faith in Jesus. I’ll see you later!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**