

Teaching Outline

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Permission to Dance David Dances
2 Samuel 6:12b-22a

WEEK 2

Key Question: **How can you show God you're grateful?**

Saying thank you doesn't have to feel like a chore. Preteens have great imaginations that can run wild as they discover all sorts of fun ways they can show gratitude to God (and others).

In week 2, we head to **2 Samuel 6:12b-22a** where we find King David in a powerful moment in Israel's history. David had the privilege of bringing the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem. He was so overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement that he danced and celebrated. David was willing to make himself look foolish to worship God for being faithful to the Israelites.

Bottom Line: **Celebrate what God has done.** Just like King David took time to thank God for being faithful, we pray that kids will learn to do the same. God has done so much for us. God will continue to show us love and faithfulness in the future and deserve all of our gratitude! We pray that kids will take time to celebrate and offer thanks to God.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT GRATITUDE WITH KIDS

On the surface, gratitude might be one of those topics that everyone can relate to. We all have something to be thankful for. However, there are some things to keep in mind when it comes to how kids think and process these sorts of topics. Remember, kids think like scientists. They are concrete thinkers who start from the most literal interpretation of what they hear people say. When we use a phrase like, "We can be thankful for God's blessings," and kids don't come from a family with many monetary blessings or have recently lost a loved one or pet, they might start to feel like God isn't blessing them. Kids are also starting to compare and contrast. When we go around the circle and kids start naming things they're grateful for—good grades, video games, big vacations, etc.—kids who don't have those things might feel bad about themselves and what they have. Steer the conversation to include more general reasons for gratitude that can be inclusive for everyone: friends, church, needs that are met, and people who love us. Of course, be sure to tie all of it back to being thankful to God for the free gift of salvation through Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God has done.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

Psalm 136:1, NIV

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you show God you're grateful?

TEACHING GUIDE:

KEYSCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 6:12b-22a

This message should be 15- 18min. More time for small group is key. Remember the lead small model.

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How can you show God you're grateful? How can we creatively express all that God has done and let others see the joy we have? Maybe you're not sure, and that's okay, too. I have a feeling you'll come up with all sorts of ideas with your Small Group. But before you head out, let's pray and ask God to give us hearts that are thankful . . . hearts that then flow outward into our words and actions! Let's pray!"

LANDING COMMUNICATOR:

How can you show God you're grateful?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Permission to Dance
David Dances
2 Samuel 6:12b-22a

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you show
God you're grateful?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God has done.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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 STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to [Name of Environment]! Hope you're having a great weekend so far! If you were here last weekend, you know that all month long we're talking about GRATITUDE!

"And because we're so thankful for how God takes care of us, we're hoping to help others with a gratitude can drive. All month long we're collecting non-perishable cans of food that will be donated to [Name of local organization] that helps people in our community. You can bring cans all month long. We'll display them here on stage! In fact, it looks like we have some cans coming in already! That's awesome. Let's see if we can fill this whole stage to help others!

"Now, for today . . . let's spread some gratitude! Let's start by showing our thankfulness to a special group of people among us—our Small Group Leaders! They take time out of their busy lives and show up week in and week out. They come prepared to create an incredible experience for you. And on top of all that, they love Jesus and want to help you know more about Him!

"I have an idea, let's give them a SHOUT-OUT! And what better way to do that than with a silly but skillful choreographed viral dance! Let's call it: 'Shout Out and Dance!'



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

SLIDE: "SHOUT OUT AND DANCE!"

"Here's how this will work. In just a moment, I'll divide you by Small Groups. Your job is to come up with a simple, 30-second, viral dance you can do together for your Small Group Leader! You'll have about five minutes to come up with and learn your dance. Then we'll gather back together and give you a chance to show your dance to the rest of the group. Ready, set, learn those dances!

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): 5-MINUTE COUNTDOWN

Host divides the room into Small Groups. Give them up to five minutes to each learn a 30-second dance. When the time is up, have them all stand in groups. One after another, they can do their dances to the music you've chosen. We suggest "Movin Me" from Orange Kids Music.

(After the countdown.) "Alright, it looks like you're ready with some awesome moves! Let's see them. I need all the groups to gather in front of the room and stand with your Small Group. We'll play some music, and starting on the left, one by one, each group can do their dance. Small Group Leaders, you get to be the audience. Let's try it!

AUDIO: "MOVIN ME" / TRACK 6 FROM READY SET MOVE (KIDS)

(After the viral dance performances) "Those were amazing! I can't believe how great those were. Small Group Leaders, how can you NOT feel celebrated?! Now, let's stand together and worship! Maybe you can even use some of those sweet moves to show your gratitude to our amazing God!"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! Right now we have the chance to lift our voices and sing God's praise. God is always good, and everything good in our lives COMES from God. Let's have fun and thank God together as we sing.

AUDIO: "SING YOUR PRAISE" / TRACK 2 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "SING YOUR PRAISE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"That's a fun one! We can sing God's praise every single day—with our voices, and also with the way we live our lives. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

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

"Last week we taught you a song called 'I'm So Grateful.' We can choose to live each day with gratitude. As we think about celebrating God today in worship, let's choose to be grateful for all that God has done. God is always good and so worthy of every song we could ever sing. Come on and sing this with me.

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

"Listen to David's words from Psalm 86:11: 'Lord, teach me how you want me to live. Do this so that I will depend on you, my faithful God. Give me a heart that doesn't want anything more than to worship you.' (NirV) Our relationship with God is the most important thing in our lives. We can depend on God. We can trust and believe that God is faithful. Let's sing and worship God now."

AUDIO: "YOU ARE FAITHFUL" / TRACK 6 FROM THIS LOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "YOU ARE FAITHFUL" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator and Host enter as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, everyone! So great to be with you!"

HOST: "Yes, we are . . . THANKFUL . . . to be with you!"

Host is way over-dramatic in emphasizing gratitude. Every "Thank you" is over the top and excessive. There are awkward pauses and smiles afterward.

COMMUNICATOR: "Yes. Yes, we are. Well, I asked [*Host's name*] to come out here with me to help set up what we are going to do next . . ."

HOST: "Yes, and I am so THANKFUL that you asked me, [*Communicator's name*]. And I am so . . . THANKFUL for such a beautiful day, this day we call Sunday on which we have gathered together, which is another reason I am . . . THANKFUL."

Awkward smile and pause.

COMMUNICATOR: "Yeah . . . I think it's great to be together, too. Anyway . . ."

HOST: "I'm also THANKFUL this morning for the simple things. The ground. What would we walk on if it weren't here? Air? I can't do that? But also gravity, which keeps us from just floating away into the nothingness of space. Gravity. What. A. Thing. I have GRATITUDE for GRAV-I-TY. How about THAT?!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Yes, how about that."

HOST: "And I'm grateful for . . ."

Host just begins naming almost everything in the room, down to the smallest detail.

COMMUNICATOR: (*Cutting Host off*) "Okay, okay, okay. Hold up just a moment here. Look, I'm never one to stop someone from being grateful . . . but can you pause for just a second?"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "[*Host's Name*] brings up a good question."

HOST: "Wait. I do? (*beat*) I mean . . . I'm so THANKFUL I bring up a good question."

COMMUNICATOR: "I see what you did there. But YES! Your display of extreme gratitude was quite something, but it makes me wonder. Could it possible to have too much gratitude? I get that a question like that might seem kinda strange to ask. But do we ever reach the point where our gratitude, our thankfulness is just too over the top? Is thankfulness something we should sometimes keep to ourselves? Maybe chill out on some of the excitement? Like, sure, we should be thankful, but maybe not THAT thankful? I don't know."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"But that's one of the things that's great about coming here to [Name of Environment]. We think asking questions and not always being sure of things is the start of something great. That's why we ask a lot of questions around here. But we also know where we can find some great answers: The Bible.

"Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who experienced the power of God in their lives. God inspired them to write about their experiences so others could get to know God, too! And the writers of the Bible have a lot to say about gratitude and showing our thankfulness. Let's check out one of those moments now!"

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "(To Host) Can you help us out? I need someone to play the role of David."

HOST: "I'm thankful for the opportunity!"

COMMUNICATOR: "Perfect. Why don't you go get into some David garb and come right back?"

HOST: "Sounds good!"

Host starts to leave but then peeks head back in.

HOST: "Are we thinking young shepherd boy, harp and lyre-era David, or more King of Israel collection?"

COMMUNICATOR: "David is king at this point. But he does still play a mean lyre . . ."

HOST: "Got it!"

Host heads out and comes back dressed in David costume.

COMMUNICATOR: "Alright, how about some backstory? This is from the Old Testament of our Bible and happened during the reign of king David. You might remember 'younger' shepherd-boy David from defeating the giant Goliath. Well, David eventually became king (points to Host), and after conquering the city of Jerusalem, which then got the title 'the city of David,' he made it the capital. So here was the king, in his capital, but there was something missing. God. David had set up a tent as a dwelling place for God in Jerusalem. But it was missing a key element: the Ark of the Covenant. But we'll get to that in a moment; let's get into the story.

Host will overact the story in a mime-style. There are a few specific instructions, but the Host should improv often.

"So as I said, King David was in Jerusalem. As our story starts, David went to the family of Obed-Edom in order to get the Ark . . ."

Host looks like they are hooking up a boat to some sort of vehicle, misunderstanding the idea of "ark."

"Umm . . . what is that supposed to be?"

HOST: "Oh, I'm hooking up my camels to a boat trailer so I can pull the ark . . ."



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR: "No . . . not that kind of ark. Not like Noah. The Ark of the Covenant. This was the sacred space where God lived and traveled with the Israelites. God is present EVERYWHERE, but in some very real way, God was present in the Ark of the Covenant. So the Ark represented the presence of God. It was important. And David's plan was to get the Ark and bring it to Jerusalem where it belonged."

HOST: "That makes more sense. Carry on!"

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 6:12b-13a (NirV) and read.

COMMUNICATOR: "'So David went down there to bring up the ark. With great joy he brought it up from the house of Obed-Edom. He took it to the City of David. Those carrying the ark of the Lord took six steps forward . . .'

Host leaps like hopscotch.

(To Host) "Well, that works. So then David sacrificed a bull and a cow. (To Host again) Let's keep it PG here, okay?"

Host smiles awkwardly.

"Moving on. Okay, so the Ark of the Lord was traveling to Jerusalem. A sacrifice was made. And check out David's reaction as the Ark moved toward Jerusalem . . .

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 6:14b (NirV) and read.

"He danced in front of the Lord with all his might.'

"This is your moment!"

Host dances poorly.

"That's with 'all your might'?"

Host pauses, and then goes crazy dancing.

"Wow! Look at the king go! David was so excited that God's presence was headed to Jerusalem that he was dancing! It was like a giant parade! All of Israel seemed to be out enjoying it!"

Communicator has to cut off Host from dancing.

(To Host) "Wow . . . that is SOME dancing. But back to the story. Well, not everyone was in the spirit of celebration like David . . .

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 6:16 (NirV) and read.

"The ark of the Lord was brought into the City of David. Saul's daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David leaping and dancing in front of the Lord. That made her hate him in her heart.'



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"And the worst part about that . . . that was not just Saul's daughter. Michal was also David's wife! Whew . . . (To Host) I didn't think your dancing was THAT bad!

"Okay there was more happening here, but we'll come back to that in a moment. First, check this out.

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 6:17-19a (NirV) and read.

"The ark of the Lord was brought into Jerusalem. It was put in its place in the tent David had set up for it. David sacrificed burnt offerings and friendship offerings to the Lord. After he finished sacrificing those offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord who rules over all. He gave to each Israelite man and woman a loaf of bread . . ."

"Let's pause for a moment and notice David here. He was dancing. He was offering things to God. He was blessing the people. He was sharing with others. David was REALLY thankful that the Ark had returned, and he was certainly showing it!

"But again, not everyone was having it.

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 6:20 (NirV) and read.

"David returned home to bless his family. Saul's daughter Michal came out to meet him. She said, "You are the king of Israel. You have really brought honor to yourself today, haven't you? You have gone around half-naked right in front of the female slaves of your officials. You acted like a fool!"

"But David didn't believe that what he was doing was meant to dishonor God. In fact, he told Michal, 'I did what I did to honor the Lord BECAUSE I was so thankful!' It's like David knew that deep down, how he was showing gratitude to God was more important than what people thought of him as he showed the gratitude. Let's give [Host's name] a hand and THANK them for helping us out today!"

Host exits the stage.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "This brings us back to our original question, doesn't it? It was so fun having [Host's name] out here, but I want to make sure you catch the point of the story. It might be easy to focus on the negative side of what Michal was saying. She thought that what David was doing was foolish . . . maybe it was odd and confusing to her. Maybe she thought kings shouldn't act like that, especially in front of a crowd of people. And so, she rejected it. But David loved God so much . . . he just couldn't help but express it in how he worshipped. And that worship showed up in a CREATIVE way.

"Let's think about this together. Have you ever been so grateful that you lose control for a moment? I don't mean that you go all wild, more that you stop caring so much about what other people think or worrying about what else is going on. Maybe you scream or run and hug someone or cry? We see it at sporting events or competitions. Why not even more with God? God did way more for us than just get us a win or score a goal. Shouldn't we get really excited when we think about just how grateful we are for all that God has done through Jesus?

"At the same time, it also doesn't need to feel forced. Showing gratitude doesn't mean that we have to constantly name everything we're thankful for all of the time. Many times, it's just having an attitude of gratitude. Choosing to be thankful when it is easier to be negative or complain. God takes great joy in our thankful heart.



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

"Now, don't worry, no one is saying that you HAVE to dance. But maybe some of you can express your gratitude to God through music like singing or playing an instrument. Or maybe it's through art—creating something that reflects your gratitude to God. Or maybe it's just telling others about what God has done for you and letting them SEE the joy you have when you tell them."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you head to Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How can you show God you're grateful?" How can we creatively express all that God has done and let others see the joy we have? Maybe you're not sure, and that's okay, too. I have a feeling you'll come up with all sorts of ideas with your Small Group. But before you head out, let's pray and ask God to give us hearts that are thankful . . . hearts that then flow outward into our words and actions! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP