



WEEK
ONE
NOVEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
or personal understanding
and application



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. As you dive into the virtue of gratitude this month, ask God to help you remain considerate and sensitive to the struggles your kids may be facing, whether they choose to share them or not. Ask God to give you the words to say as you lead conversations about gratitude even when things are difficult.

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, NIRV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Sticky notes and pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Select a space in the room to create a Gratitude Wall.
- Give each kid a pen or pencil and a sticky note.
- Invite the kids to write or draw something they're grateful for.
- Show the kids the Gratitude Wall.
- Invite them to add their sticky note to the wall.
- Allow the kids to create and add as many sticky notes as they'd like.
- Encourage the kids to browse the other notes on the Gratitude Wall.
- Let your group know that they will be adding to this wall all month long because there is so much to be grateful for!



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



*2. ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Attitude of Gratitude" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into pairs.
- One by one, read the scenarios from the "Attitude of Gratitude" Activity Page out loud to the group.
- Instruct the kids to discuss the scenario with their partner and come up with a way to show gratitude in that situation.
- Ask kids for some things someone in that situation could be grateful for.
- Invite each pair to share their ideas with the rest of the group.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When things go wrong, it can feel challenging to find something to be grateful for. Some of these scenarios were a little harder than others to find a reason to be thankful, but you all did a great job of seeing something good between the challenges.

"Finding something to be grateful for doesn't mean that our tough times aren't real. Sometimes we might need some time alone. Sometimes we might need to talk to a parent or a safe adult, or sometimes we might need to talk to God who knows us and sees us and understands us. But think about it. Having a safe space to go, a trusted adult to talk to, and a God who loves us are all reasons to be grateful. Even when things get tough, **you always have something to be grateful for!** The more we practice being grateful, the more joyful we will become—even in tough times."

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MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



3. GOTCHA! [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Psalm 136:1 following the Bible navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "Psalms" in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 136. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 1 in chapter 136.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You always have something to be grateful for.

- Instruct the kids to pay attention as you read the memory verse out loud to the group a few times.
- Read Psalm 136:1 out loud to the group again, but make a mistake with one word.
 - For example, "Give thanks to the Lord, because he is **strong**. His faithful love continues forever." Psalm 136:1 (NirV)
- When a kid hears the mistake, instruct them to shout "GOTCHA!" and say the verse correctly.
- Continue to play, making "mistakes" on different words, as time and interest allow.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was a lot of fun, and you all did an amazing job catching my mistakes! Even though I made mistakes, I'm so grateful to know so many wonderful kids who can help me correct them. That's true for me, and it's true for you, too! Even if we make mistakes, we have a good and faithful God who always loves us! That's a great way to remember, **you always have something to be grateful for.**"

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4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Instruct each kid to think of something or someone they're

grateful for.

- Say, "Prayer is talking to God. You don't have to use fancy words. God knows what's in your heart and on your mind. Just talk to God like you'd talk to a friend."
- After the kids have had enough time to think, go around the circle, instructing them to say someone or something they're thankful for.
- Once the group is finished, say, "Those are great things and people to be grateful for!"
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, thank You for our families, our friends, our church, the food we eat, the homes we live in, and all the blessings You've given us. But most of all, thank You for giving us Jesus who showed us that You love us always. Help us have hearts that can always find a reason to be grateful, even when we go through challenges. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show the adults the Gratitude Wall and share that **you always have something to be grateful for.**