

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Give Thanks

Give Thanks No Matter
What Happens
1 Thessalonians 5:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What are you grateful for?

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.

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What words would you use to describe an ungrateful person? How would you describe a grateful person?
- Why do you think it's so hard for many of us to be grateful?
- In what ways does your trust in God impact the way you feel about the situations you go through?
- We can be grateful even when we don't feel happy. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why or why not.
- What's the best way to change an ungrateful attitude to a grateful one?

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, sticky notes, markers, timer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible, marker, and 4-5 sticky notes.
- Ask kids to find Psalm 136:1 using the Bible Navigation

Tips below:

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Psalms. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (Old) So we know it's toward the front of the Bible. Tell them that Psalms is close to the middle of the Bible. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 136. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 1 in chapter 136.*

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- Invite a kid who enjoys reading to lead the group in saying the verse together.
- Ask:
 - How does knowing God's love is forever give you reason for thanks?
 - How has God shown you goodness?
 - People often think that God being good means nothing bad will happen. What do we know about God that helps you understand why people face hard situations?
- Invite the kids to name situations that can steal away their gratitude.
- Say the first part of the verse, and, one at a time, insert the situations the kids came up with in the verse.
 - For example: "Give thanks to the Lord when _____ because He is good. His faithful love continues forever."
- Ask kids to write the word GRATITUDE on each of their sticky notes.
- When finished, instruct the kids to attach their sticky notes to each of their arms.
- Play a game of "Gratitude Snatch."
 - Establish and point out the boundary where kids can play the game.
 - Explain that everyone's sticky notes are there for the taking, but the goal is to guard their sticky notes so others don't take them during the 30 seconds the game is being played.
 - Set the timer for 30 seconds.
 - At the end of 30 seconds, the kid with the most sticky notes still on their arms is the winner.
 - If time allows, continue the game, but ask kids who lose all of their sticky notes to sit down. Then play until only one kid remains.
- Say: "This week, guard your gratitude with the same energy you used to protect your sticky notes."
- Remind the kids that wrong attitudes steal our gratitude.
- Share how if they feel disappointed or life seems unfair, they can always talk to God for help to focus on the good things God has done for them that day. In all times, whether good times, bad times, or just everyday life, they can always find something to be grateful for.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Pens, selected supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

Note: Kids will begin a "Gratitude Continuum," an ongoing activity throughout the month. It can take on a variety of

forms. Choose a format that works best for your environment. (see Getting Ready for more)

- Invite kids to begin a Gratitude Continuum: an ongoing display of ways they're thankful.
- Explain your specific project and how kids will add to it each week.
- This week, encourage kids to think of something that's easy for them to be grateful for as well as something that's not so easy.
- When finished, direct kids to add what they've written to the Gratitude Continuum in whatever way you've chosen.
- Bring everyone together.
- Allow a few minutes for kids to pray silently or aloud for things they're grateful for today.
- After a few minutes, close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we need Your help because gratitude doesn't come easy to us, especially when we're having a bad day. Remind us that Your plans are always good. Help us guard our gratitude instead of complaining about what isn't going our way. Help us choose to be grateful for all that is good. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

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