

ALWAYS THANK GOD

FOCUS

We should thank God for everything even when we don't feel like it.

TODAY'S TIP

Have your students say "Please" and "Thank you" during class time.

This will help them remember to say "Thank you" to God also.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Light colored construction paper
- Ruler / Pencils or black markers
- Bright colored markers or crayons

1 WELCOME & SINGING

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Make announcements.
- Sing songs relating to the topic.
- Take prayer requests and pray.

2 OPENING ACTIVITY

Today's Bible verse tells us that it is **you** will thank **you** give thanks for everything. *Take a few minutes to talk about being thankful no matter what, even when things we don't like happen.* God wants us to be thankful because we are God's children and He loves us. So, even when things don't go our way we can still be happy, because God still loves us.

Below are a number of hypothetical situations which end by asking the words, "Could **you** give thanks?" You may use your own ideas or the ideas below. Each child should have 1 or 2 turns to answer a question. Encourage them to be truthful with their answer. If someone answers, "No," steer the discussion to help the group see the importance of having an attitude of thanksgiving. Remind them that God still loves them and they are still His children.

- You invited your friend to spend the night, but your mom says "no." Could you give thanks?
- You and your friend are going to ride your bikes. You see that hers is much nicer and newer than yours. Could you give thanks?
- Mom asks you to clean up your room. It is a mess, and you hate to clean it up. Could you give thanks?
- Mom fixes broccoli for dinner, and you don't like it at all. Could you give thanks?
- Today was the day for the school picnic, but it rained this morning and it's too wet outdoors to have a picnic. Could you give thanks?
- During the evening meal, someone else takes your favorite piece of chicken before you have a chance to get it. Could you give thanks?
- You had hoped for a bike on your birthday, but your parents gave you a game instead. Could you give thanks?
- You are invited to a birthday party on Saturday, but your family has planned to visit your grandparents who live two hours away that day, and you need to go with them. Could you give thanks?

3 INTRO TO THE STORY

Is it good for you to always get what you want?" *No* Why isn't it good?" *Because you would be selfish and think only of yourself.* Our story is about someone who didn't get what he wanted.

4 STUDENT LESSON

Aidan was standing by the window watching the rain come down. "Now we can't have our school picnic," he said. "I prayed for a nice day, and look at it rain," he grumbled.

"Maybe someone else prayed for rain," teased his big sister. Aidan frowned.

Then, he looked at his mom and said, "Mom, why didn't Jesus let us have a nice day? I prayed for it."

Mom thought a minute, then said, "He **did** give us a good day. A rainy day is a good day. Today, the strawberries are growing, so you can have strawberry jam. Today, the grass is growing out in the country fields, so you can have milk and meat from cows, who need grass. Today, the streets are being washed clean from dust and dirt. Oh, it's a good day!"

"But I want to have a picnic," Aidan pouted.

"It isn't always good to get what we want, son," said Mom. You prayed for a good day for your picnic but maybe Mr. Ellis prayed for rain for his garden. What do you think God should do if gardens need rain? Do you want a picnic?"

"Well, all right," said Aidan, not answering Mom's question. "Maybe we can have our picnic tomorrow or the next day."

"That's a good attitude," said Mom. "In the Bible, we are told to give thanks **in everything**, for this is God's will. Today, we can **thank God** for the rain. When we say thank you and really mean it, we are happy, even when we don't get what we want."

DISCUSSION: When things don't go our way or we have something that isn't fun, we can thank God that He knows best. Doing this also helps us to grow up on the inside. Having a thankful attitude makes us beautiful on the inside and pleases Jesus and those around us too.

PRAYER: Thank God that He knows what is best for each of us. Also ask God to help us learn to thank Him even when things don't go our way. Ask God to help you pray, you think it would be positive.

MEMORY VERSE

Give thanks in everything;
for this is God's will.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

6 LESSON ACTIVITY

Taking their worksheets, children should find the hidden message and fill in the blanks. When they are done, have someone read the words.

1. Cross out all the B's.

B A B L W B A Y B S

Now write the letters that are left.

A L W A Y S

2. Cross out all the C's.

C T C H A C N C K

Write the letters that are left.

T H A N K

On the line below, write the three words that tell what God wants us to do.

ALWAYS THANK GOD

3. Cross out all the A's.

A A G A O A D

Write the letters that are left.

G O D