

Thanks Living

ELEMENTARY LESSON



Theme: Sharing God's blessing with others

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Memory Verse: "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- Thank you cards - one per child
- Pencils

Do This:

SAY: When someone does something nice for you, what do you do? You say, "Thank you," don't you? Sometimes that just doesn't seem to be enough. Has someone ever done something for you that was so nice that you wanted to do more than just say, "Thank You"? I have. When that happens, I sometimes send them a "Thank You" card. (Give each child a card and pencil.) Everyone enjoys receiving a "Thank You" card. Think about a time you sent a card or note like this. (Invite a few kids to share about a time they thanked someone with a card.)

Another way you can show your thanks when someone does something really nice for you is by doing something nice for them in return. Like if someone invites you to spend the night and you have a really good time, you return their kindness by

inviting them to come and spend the night with you. It's always important to show we're thankful when someone does something for us.

I don't know anyone who has done more for us than God has. God provides food when we're hungry and water when we're thirsty. He heals us when we're sick and He comforts us when we're sad. The Bible tells us that He is an ever-present helper in times of trouble. Take a moment now to write or draw something you're thankful to God for. (Allow time for kids to write thankful messages to God in their cards. Invite kids to briefly share with a neighbor what they wrote.)

Because of all God has done for us, we say, "Thank you." But He's done so much! I have an idea to do even more to thank God.

Jesus told us how to do it. Jesus said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do it for me." That means when we feed someone who is hungry, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we visit someone who is sick, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we give clothes to those who are in need, it is the same as doing it for Jesus.

There is a very special name for this way of saying, "Thank you." I call it "thanks living." "Thanks living" is when we show our thanks by the way we live. "Thanks living" is when we look at the many ways God has blessed us, and we thank Him by sharing His blessings with others. (Invite kids to share specific ways they can participate in "thanks living" this week.)

Take home your cards and put them somewhere as a reminder to show your thanks to God in the way you live. Let's pray and ask God to help us offer our thanksgiving by "thanks living."

PRAY: Dear God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving. Help us turn our thanksgiving into "thanks living." Help us notice people around us who are in need and ways we can care for them like You care for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Memory Verse

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

You'll Need:

- **Bed sheets - 1 per team**
- **Index cards**

Get Ready: Write words or phrases from the Bible memory verse on different index cards. Make one set per team, and make enough so there is at least one card for each player. Place the index card sets in piles at one end of the room, along with a bed sheet for each team.

Do This:

- Explain to the kids that you're going to help one another solve the Bible memory verse.
- A player from each team will sit on the sheet with the correct index card to put the Bible memory verse in order.

- The other players will pull the sheet and the other person to the opposite side of the room to put the verse in order on the floor and then pull them back.
- Make sure each player gets a ride on the sheet with an index card.
- The first team to help all their players down to put the Bible memory verse in order wins.

ASK:

- **What was difficult about putting this Bible memory verse in order?**
- **What things might get in your way of caring for others like God calls us to do?**

SAY: It's not always easy to help others, but God has told us to help those in need. We can always ask God to help us know what to do when helping others is hard. He'll help us know what to do. Remember, sharing God's blessings with others is a great way to thank God for all He has done for us.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- **Bibles -- one per child**
- **Large piece of newsprint - one per child**
- **Permanent black markers - one per child**

- **Crayons**

Do This:

- Invite each child to turn in their Bibles to Psalm 100.
- Explain that you're going to read the Psalm aloud. Invite kids to write the Psalm in permanent black marker on their piece of newsprint.
- Then instruct them to use crayons to color a picture on top of this Psalm.
- Hang their Scripture art around the church for members to see.

ASK:

- **What did this Psalm help you remember to be thankful for?**

SAY: In God we have so much to be thankful for. When we live thankful lives, especially during hard times, we can share God's blessing of Jesus with others because He is the greatest gift of all.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Have children hang their art in their home.

"Thank You" Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- **"[Thank You](#)" video lesson**
- **Something to play the video**

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- What's your favorite way to tell someone "thank you"?
- What is one way you will show God you're thankful this week?

Thankful Treats

You'll Need:

- Mini candy bars
- Buckets

Do This:

- Place the mini candy bars in buckets.
- For every thing kids can name they are thankful for, they can have a treat. (Set a max number.)

SAY: Today we learned we have so much to be thankful for, didn't we? We can show how thankful we are by how we live.

ASK:

- Tell about someone you know who you could help.
- What will you do for that person?
- What might you share with that person about God that shows why you want to help them?

A Moment of Thanks

You'll Need:

- A stopwatch
- A bell

Do This:

- Have kids pair-up to play against another player for one minute.
- Ring the bell to start.
- Each child will name as many things as they can think of for which they're thankful. The other person in the pair will be the scorekeeper, counting how many things his or her partner named in one minute.
- After both players have had a turn, see who has the most things for which they are thankful on their list.
- Turn this into a tournament until one person has won every match, if time allows.
- This can be done as teams as well, if the teacher desires.

ASK:

- What made this game hard?
- What was easy about it?
- What are some things you know you left off?

SAY: One minute is not nearly enough time to list all the things we have to be thankful for. The greatest gift we have been given is the gift of Jesus Christ who

came and paid the price for our sins so we can be rescued. In Him alone we have forgiveness and new life. We don't earn this gift by doing things for others, but those of us who have a relationship with Jesus are happy to live thankful lives by sharing God's blessings with those in need.

Virtual Lesson Tip

Do this with the entire family.

THANKS LIVING ENVELOPE WALL HANGING

You'll Need:

- [Thanks Living How-to Video](#)
- **"[Thanks Living Envelope](#)" handout - one per child**
- **Wrapping paper, cut into 8X8 squares**
- **Glue sticks**
- **Construction paper**
- **Markers**
- **Index cards or strips of paper**

Do This:

To make the "Thanks Living Envelope," have kids follow these steps:

- Fold your paper by following the steps on your handout.
- Attach the back of the envelope to a piece of construction paper to hang in your home.
- Write "Thanks Living" at the top.

- Take index cards or blank strips of paper for each family member to write words of thanks written to another family member and place in the decorated envelope each day.
- These can be read at the end of the month together as a family!

SAY: One way to live a life of thanks living is to be intentional about saying thank you to family members. Take this wall hanging home and encourage your family to fill it all month with thankful words written to family members. Then at the end of the month, read them together as a family.

Thankful for You Prayers

You'll Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers

Do This:

- Give each child a piece of construction paper and some markers.
- Invite them to think of someone in their life who they're thankful for.
- Instruct them to pray silently for that person.
- Then have them make that person a card sharing that they thanked God for them.

PRAY: Dear God, we have so much to be thankful for. Thank You for all the people in our lives we just prayed for. God, show us others who are in need and how we can help them. We want to live thankful lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Share His Love"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)

[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track
- Song: "Jesus Is the Living Water"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)

[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

Do This:

SAY: When we live a life of thanks, we make it a priority to praise God. Let's do that now through these songs.

Lead children in singing "Share His Love" and "Jesus Is the Living Water."

Complete Supply List:

- [Thank you cards](#) - one per child
- [Pencils](#)
- [Bed sheets](#) - one per team
- [Index cards](#)

- Bibles -- one per child
- Large piece of newsprint - one per child
- [Permanent black markers](#) - one per child
- [Crayons](#)
- [Mini candy bars](#)
- [Buckets](#)
- [A stopwatch](#)
- [A bell](#)
- [Wrapping paper](#), cut into 8X8 squares
- [Glue sticks](#)
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AT HOME LESSON

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Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

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The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

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Do This:

SAY: When someone does something nice for you, what do you do? You say, "Thank you," don't you? Sometimes that just doesn't seem to be enough. Has someone ever done something for you that was so nice that you wanted to do more than just say, "Thank You"? I have. When that happens, I sometimes send them a "Thank You" card. (Give each child a card and pencil.) **Everyone enjoys receiving a "Thank You" card. Think about a time you sent a card or note like this.**

(Invite a few kids to share about a time they thanked someone with a card.)

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"Thank You" Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- ["Thank You"](#) video lesson

- **Something to play the video**

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- **What's your favorite way to tell someone "thank you"?**
- **What is one way you will show God you're thankful this week?**

Thankful Treats

You'll Need:

- **Mini candy bars**
- **Buckets**

Do This:

- Place the mini candy bars in buckets.
- For every thing kids can name they are thankful for, they can have a treat. (Set a max number.)

SAY: Today we learned we have so much to be thankful for, didn't we? We can show how thankful we are by how we live.

ASK:

- **Tell about someone you know who you could help.**
- **What will you do for that person?**

- **What might you share with that person about God that shows why you want to help them?**

Snack Pack for Others

You'll Need:

- **Brown paper lunch bags - one per child**
- **Stickers**
- **Markers**
- **Crackers**
- **Pudding cups**
- **Fruit cups**
- **Juice boxes**
- **Granola bars**
- **Other items for someone in need**

Do This:

To make the thankful bag, have kids follow these steps:

- Provide the children with a brown paper lunch bag to decorate with words from today's lesson on showing our thanks to God by sharing God's blessings.
- Let the children put together "snack packs" to give to hungry people in their area.
- Set up the food on a table so kids can fill the bags--assembly style.
- Let the children walk around the table and make snack packs to be given out to people in need.

- Invite children to keep this bag in their family car to give it to someone in need. Stress that they're only to do this with adult supervision.

SAY: Now that you've made your snack bag, let's pray and ask God to give us the opportunity to share this bag with someone else. Hold your bags as I pray.

PRAY: Dear God, please give us the eyes to see those in need. Give us the courage to share with them. We want to live lives of thanksgiving for all You have done for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Complete Supply List:

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