

Thanksgiving

Lesson 27a — It Is Good to Give Thanks

Lesson 27b — Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Lesson 27c — Woman at the Well

Lesson 27d — Feeding the 4000

Lesson 27e — Paul Gives Thanks to Jesus

OVERVIEW

The theme of our final unit this quarter revolves around the importance of giving thanks to God. God's Holy Word is filled with excellent advice. It teaches us how to live and is our guide to our heavenly home. And among the explicit teachings of the Bible is the necessity of offering praise and worship to God.

The spirit of thanksgiving is one of the fruits of a genuine experience in the Lord. It is not only an inspiration and uplift to those who hear and observe it, but it is pleasing in the ears of the Lord! Even young primary children need to grasp this important truth.

With this thought in mind, our unit opens with a general lesson on why it is good to give thanks to the Lord, bringing out ways that this thanks can be offered to

Him. Subsequent lessons offer various examples of thanksgiving: the one leper who came back to express his gratitude to Jesus for healing, the woman at the well who wanted to tell others what Jesus had done for her, Jesus' own example of giving thanks when He blessed the loaves and fishes and fed the multitude, and the Apostle Paul's thanksgiving for a victorious life.

As this is Thanksgiving month, you will find suggested a number of ways the holiday can be tied in with these five lessons. However, the unit should be developed with the thought that being thankful is not a one-time occurrence, nor is it something we practice only at this time of year. It is an attitude of heart and mind that we should all possess, no matter what our age or circumstance in life.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Cut 10 corn shocks from yellow paper (see Patterns). Mark them from 1 to 10 on one side and the letters G-I-V-E T-H-A-N-K-S on the other side. Line them up on a flannel board with the numbers showing. Have 10 questions from the previous lessons and number them 1 to 10. Scramble the questions on the lower part of the board and have a child choose a number. When the question is answered the corn shock with the matching number is turned over so the letter shows. The first child to guess what you are spelling before all the letters are turned over receives a prize.

Make up a list of questions pertaining to the month's lessons. Begin by having a volunteer come forward. Give him two signs, one that says RIGHT and one that says WRONG. Ask for another volunteer to answer a question. After he answers, the sign holder must determine whether the answer is right or wrong and hold up the appropriate sign. If both are right, they both get a

prize. If the person who answers the question is right but the sign holder wrong, then the one who answered gets a prize and gets to hold the signs for the next question. If the sign holder is right and the other person wrong, then the sign holder gets a prize and you pick two more volunteers.

CONTEST IDEAS

On your board have a large picture of Jesus with the heading GIFTS OF THANKS TO JESUS. Make up a number of small gifts (cut out of paper) to place on the board (see Present pattern for lesson 4d). Also wrap up a real gift for each child, but wrap it several times so there are several layers to unwrap. The Sunday before the contest begins, be sure to tell your class you will be giving each one of them a gift to begin unwrapping the following Sunday if they bring their Bible. You can choose whatever you would like for each Sunday (bringing a friend, knowing key verse, etc.). Each time a child completes the assignment, another layer is un-

wrapped from the gift, and he can put one of the paper gifts on the board and write his name on it. All the children are winners when they have finished taking all the wrapping paper off their real gift. Try to give each child a different gift so that the first one finished won't spoil what is in the other gifts. A bonus gift can be given to the child with the most paper gifts on the board.

Cut a large cornucopia from brown paper. Cut several pieces of fruit from colored paper for each child in your class. After each lesson is over, those who have participated in the singing, actions, brought their Bible, shown kindness, etc., get a piece of fruit to place on the board inside the cornucopia. Prizes could be given for those with five to six pieces of fruit, three to four, and so on down the line, starting with a larger prize and working down.

Give each of the children a paper sack. Every Sunday give them something to put into their sacks. For example, the first Sunday you could give them a sticker for their attendance. The next Sunday, if they bring their Bibles, you could give them a piece of candy to put into their bag; the third Sunday, some money for knowing their memory verse; the fourth, a stick of gum for bringing someone to Sunday school; the fifth Sunday a little prize for showing kindness. At the end of the month they can take their sacks home.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Display a variety of colored balloons on your board with a letter on each one representing something for which we can be thankful (see Patterns). Attach a string of yarn to each one. Give one to each of the children to take home when they can think of something they are thankful for that starts with that letter. Examples: F for food, M for Mom, D for Dad, H for home.

Center the words GIVE THANKS in the middle of your board. Surround it with symbols of giving thanks (see Patterns).

Cut out hands, feet, smile, and heart from paper (see Patterns). Title your board I'LL PRAISE JESUS WITH ALL I HAVE!

Center a boy and girl Pilgrim on your board with an appropriate verse of thanks underneath. Decorate the borders with fruit and vegetables (see Patterns).

Draw a large cornucopia for your bulletin board (see Patterns). Ask your students to go through old magazines or catalogs at home and cut out pictures of things for which they are thankful (toys, food, clothes, family, etc.). Have them bring the pictures to Sunday school and add them to the cornucopia.

UNIT SONGS

"Thank You Lord"

"Praise Him, Praise Him"

"God Is So Good"

"My God Is So Great"

"If You Can Sing a Song (then praise the Lord)" — The First Sunday Sing-a-long — Maranatha for Kids

UNIT PROJECTS

Help your students make a Praying Hands booklet of memory verses as a project for these five lessons (see Patterns). Cut out the hands shape, filling in the details on the cover hand. Cut five other pages using the hand shape with lines. Each Sunday let the children write their memory verse on one of these pages. At the end of the unit, help each child assemble his booklet by threading yarn through the holes indicated.

CHART IDEAS

Have each child in your class color a small picture representing thankfulness. Place the picture on a piece of cardboard or poster board a little larger than the picture. Laminate or cover the picture with clear contact paper. Glue a magnet on the back and have the children take them home to put on their refrigerators.

Make a Memory Basket from verse pages given to the students each Sunday (see Patterns). Cut each page from the color of construction paper suggested. Write in the memory verse each week. On the last Sunday, staple the pages together on the left side to form a book.

Cut a turkey out of brown construction paper (see Patterns) for each child. Add a red wattle and a yellow beak made out of construction paper. Print the first memory verse on the brown. For each of the other weeks they know their memory verse, add the yellow, green, and red feathers with the verses printed on them.

Give each of the children a Thank You wheel chart which you have prepared for them (see Patterns). Each week let them turn their wheel to something they are especially thankful for that week.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

We Give Thanks — coloring book, Concordia

My Church — coloring book, 8 each of 6 pictures, Christian Board of Publication

Showing Our Love — Record and songs, 6 songs with resource sheet for each song. Full color flannelgraph sheets to add interest, Gospel Publishing House

But I'm Thankful — I Really Am! — Jane Belk Moncure (book), Standard Publishing