

Bible Point

We Thank God

Bible Verse

We thank God (adapted from Psalm 107:1).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will

- realize that God wants them to thank him,
- explore different ways to thank God, and
- express their thanks to God.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ We thank God in many ways.

Deuteronomy 16:13-15



Throughout the Old Testament, God's love and mercy toward the disadvantaged is evident. God expected his people to have the same compassion for others. Even though Israel was his special chosen people, they were not to mistreat foreigners living in their midst.

Likewise, those who had fallen on hard times, such as widows and orphans, were not to be neglected. In ancient culture especially, losing one's husband or parents meant certain poverty and severe hardship. This was not to be the case in Israel, where those who had benefited from God's grace were to pass that grace on to others.

The Festival of Shelters was to be a joyous time for all in Israel—not just the well-to-do. Similarly, God wants each of us to include others in the overflow of blessing he has poured out on us. Obeying God with the material blessing he has given us is a form of thanksgiving. It is important for children to see adults modeling God's love through generosity.

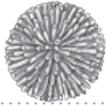
Prayer

- Read James 1:27.
- In your perception, what sorts of activities do people typically equate with “being religious”?
- Whether you know any widows or orphans, the principle taught here is to care for the disadvantaged. Is there anyone in your life today who needs you to demonstrate the kind of “pure and genuine religion” James speaks of?
- Pray: Lord, help me to share the wealth of blessing you've bestowed on me with those who need it. Help me to model generosity for the children I teach.

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	Option 1: A Tree for Me —Help each other sort leaves, and then put them back on the tree.	Small tree branch, duct or masking tape, string, transparent tape	
	Option 2: Leap-in Leaves —Play in a newspaper “leaf pile.”	Medium-sized box, newspaper	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	We Thank God —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they learn about being thankful from Deuteronomy 16:13-15.	Red construction paper, scissors, tape, napkins, apple slices, bowl, tree branch from Option 1	
	We Thank God in Many Ways —Sing a fun song, and learn new ways to thank God.	CD player	
Bible Activities	The Thanking Game —Play a fun game to remind them to thank God.		
	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Praying-hands and eyeglasses patterns (p. 176), scissors, tape	
	Sing It Out —Sing a fun song, and learn new ways to thank God.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Create colorful mats to sit on.	Newspaper, construction paper and scraps from Bible Story, stickers, crayons, glue sticks	
	Bible Game —March, and thank God.	Mats from Bible Craft	
Closing 	Delicious Designs —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Variety of cereals, napkins, cupcake liners, mats from Bible Craft	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



track 15



- Play “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) (track 15) from the *CD* as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► we thank God.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: A Tree for Me

SUPPLIES: small tree branch, duct or masking tape, string, transparent tape



Before class, attach a tree branch securely to the wall using duct or masking tape. Tape loops of string to the paper leaves in Sensory Packet 3, and then hang the leaves from the tree branch.

As children arrive, invite them to gently “pick” the leaves from the “tree” and then let the leaves flutter to the ground. When the tree is bare, encourage children to “rake” the leaves into piles of the same colors and hang the leaves back on the tree. As children work together, ask questions such as “Who do we thank for leaves and trees?” and “How can we thank God?”

Tell the children that today’s Bible story is about thanking God. Explain that there are many ways to thank God and that the people in the Bible story had a party to say “thank you” to God. Remind children that ► we thank God every day.

Return the paper leaves to the Learning Lab after this activity.

Option 2: Leap-in Leaves

SUPPLIES: medium-sized box, newspaper

Before class, set a medium-sized box in the center of the room. Crumple 15 to 20 sheets of newspaper, and pile them near the box.

As children arrive, invite them to play in the “leaf pile.” Encourage toddlers to hop up and down in the “leaves,” “rake” them into piles, and then put the leaves into the box. Let children toss the leaves into the air and say, “Thank you, God!” Remind toddlers that ► we thank God for many things.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



track 2

As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



If you don’t want to use a real tree branch, make one by twisting a brown paper grocery bag into a main branch. Then tape thinner paper twists or long chenille wires to the branch to make smaller branches.



For extra fun, use plastic toy rakes or shovels to rake the newspaper “leaves” into piles. Or have children toss the leaves into the box for a quick game of “leaf basketball.”



Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
Let's pick up all our things.
It's time to stop our play.

teacher tips

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



track 3

Say: **Who do we thank for all the good things we have? ► We thank God. How do we know that? The Bible tells us. Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let's sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD* (track 3), lead the children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."**



This is God's special book.
Yes, it's God's book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

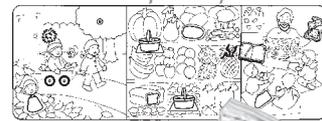
(Repeat.)

Bible!



■ Bible Story: We Thank God

SUPPLIES: red construction paper, scissors, tape, napkins, thinly cut apple slices, bowl, tree branch from Option 1



Before class begins, please make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before this activity, place napkins in the baskets you made in week 10, and put apple slices in each basket. Have extra slices in a bowl beside you. Cut a red construction paper apple for each child, and

tape the paper apples on the tree branch from Option 1. If you chose not to do Option 1, tape the apples to the walls. Save the paper scraps to use later in the Bible Craft activity.

Panel 1



On Panel 3, fasten the figure of Cuddles to the floor and the punch-out Bible to the teacher’s hand. Insert the shelves on Panel 2. Place the food baskets behind you.

Open the StoryBoard to Panel 1. Say: **Our Bible story is about thanking God. Long ago, God wanted his people to thank him and told them to have a “thankful” party. God told them to live in special tents for seven days. They sang songs, prayed, and ate good food while they thanked God for all the things he gave them. ► We thank God for many things, too. Our StoryBoard shows pictures of things we’re thankful for.**

Ask: • **Where is the apple tree?**

Have toddlers find the tree and smell the apple scratch-and-sniff sticker on Panel 1.

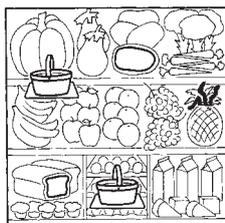
Say: **God gives us apple trees, and ► we thank God for apples. Let’s pick pretend apples!** Lead children to the tree branch and invite each child to “pick” an “apple.” Then return to the StoryBoard. **Hold your apples in the air. Good! Let’s thank God for apples.** Lead children in saying “Thank you, God, for apples.” Tape the paper apples on the children’s clothing to remind them that we thank God for fruit.

The children in the picture are wearing warm clothes. Let’s touch the jacket and hat. Pause while each child touches the fabric and pompom on Panel 1. **► We thank God for warm clothes. We also thank him for friends. The friends in our picture are playing with their wagon. Can you make the wagon wheels turn ’round and ’round?** Let toddlers each have a turn spinning the wheels.

Let’s be like the wheels on a wagon. We’ll roll over and over. Have children lie on their sides and roll across the floor and back. **That was fun! It’s lots of fun thanking God, too! Let’s see what else ► we thank God for.**



Panel 2



Have children wash their hands. Reveal Panel 2 of the StoryBoard which shows colorful fruits and vegetables.

Ask: • **Who do we thank for our food?** (God.)

Say: **► We thank God for the good food we eat. Can you find the good foods in this picture?** Have toddlers find and touch the following foods:

- carrots and broccoli,
- potatoes and eggplant,
- pineapple and bananas,
- oranges and grapes,
- bread and rolls, and
- milk and eggs.

Say: **God gives us good food to make us healthy and strong. Show me your muscles!** Pause while children “flex” their muscles. **Now stand up tall and strong. Good! The good foods God gives us help us grow healthy and strong. We can thank God for our food with a prayer. Fold your hands and we’ll pray.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for our food. Amen. Now let’s taste some good food, shall we?**



Place the food baskets on the shelves on Panel 2. Invite each child to take an apple slice from the bowl as you pass it around. Remind toddlers to say “thank you” when they take food from the bowl.

As children enjoy their snacks, say: **Saying prayers is a good way to thank God for all that he gives us. Let’s see what else ►we thank God for.**



Panel 3



Unfold Panel 3 which shows children in a Sunday school room.

Say: **Look at the boys and girls in this room. They’re listening to a Bible story just like you. Here’s the Bible. The teacher is holding the Bible and using a StoryBoard to tell the Bible story. Let’s touch the teacher’s beard and the StoryBoard.** Have children feel the beard and touch the StoryBoard on Panel 3. **Learning about God is a good way to thank him. And ►we thank God for the Bible, too. Let’s pass the Bible and say, “Thank you, God.”** Pass the

punch-out Bible to each child and lead him or her in saying, “Thank you, God.”

We also thank God for our special friends at church! Here’s a special friend we can pet. Fasten the figure of Cuddles to the teacher’s hand. Invite children to pet Cuddles.

►**We thank God for lots of things, and we can thank him in many ways. We can pray, listen to Bible stories, and learn about God. We can also sing songs to tell God thank you. Let’s sing a new song and learn different ways to thank God.**

Put the StoryBoard away.



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.

■ We Thank God in Many Ways

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead the children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16) to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, form a circle and do the motions in parentheses.



We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)—

Clap our hands; sing his praise. (*Clap three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.*)

We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)

Because we love him. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)

We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)—

Jump and hop; sing his praise. (*Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.*)

We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)

Because we love him. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)

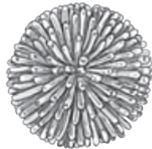


Say: **There are lots of ways ►we thank God. And it’s fun to thank God when we’re in church with our friends. We can sing, play, and pray together. Let’s play a fun thanking game!**

Bible Activities

■ The Thanking Game

SUPPLIES: none



Remove the *porcupine ball* from the Learning Lab. Have children sit in a circle on the floor with you.

Ask: • **What kinds of things can ► we thank God for?** (Food; families; clothes.)

• **What are some ways we can thank God?** (Praying; singing to God; saying “thank you.”)

• **Where are some places we can thank God?** (At home; at church; at the playground.)

Say: **Let’s play a game to remind us that we can thank God for lots of things, in lots of ways, and in lots of places! I’ll roll this *porcupine ball* to each of you, and I’ll tell you how I want you to answer. First, let’s name things we can thank God for!**

Roll the *porcupine ball* to a child, and let that child name one thing he or she can thank God for. Then have the child roll the ball back to you. Continue until each child has had a chance to answer.

Then begin again, this time letting each child say a way to thank God. Finally, play a third time, letting each child say a place to thank God. After the game, place the *porcupine ball* out of sight.

Say: **That was fun! I’m so glad that ► we thank God for lots of things, in lots of ways, in lots of places!**

Let’s see if our friend Cuddles knows a good way to thank God.



■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: praying-hands and eyeglasses patterns (p. 176), scissors, tape



Before class, photocopy the praying-hands pattern. Cut out a pair of praying hands for each child. Make one photocopy of the eyeglasses pattern. Cut out the eyeglasses, and also cut out the inside circles. Tape the glasses onto Cuddles.



Bring out Cuddles the Lamb wearing the eyeglasses.

Cuddles: *(Looking up, down, behind you, over your head, around the children)*
Hmmm...hmmm...

Teacher: Hello, Cuddles! What are you looking for? And why are you wearing glasses?

Cuddles: *(Still looking high and low)* I'm looking for something very special. Hmmm, where could it be?

Teacher: Tell us what you're looking for, and maybe we can help you find it, Cuddles.

Cuddles: *(Stops searching)* I'm looking for a way to tell God "thank you."

Teacher: But why are you wearing glasses?

Cuddles: I was hoping these glasses would help me *see* ways to thank God.

Teacher: We can help you, Cuddles—and you don't need special glasses to find ways to thank God. We've been learning that ► ***we thank God.*** And there are lots of ways to thank him. Children, how can we thank God? *(Encourage children to tell Cuddles that we can thank God with songs, by going to church, and with our prayers.)* We can tell God "thank you" with songs, by being nice to people, and by saying prayers. We're going to add prayer hands to the bulletin board today. Would you like to help us?

Cuddles: Sure! It's nice helping my friends!

Have Cuddles give each child a praying-hands cutout. Help children tape the cutouts to the figures on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a pair of praying hands, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point. When all the praying hands have been placed, continue.

Teacher: Look! The people at the Thanksgiving table are saying a prayer. What do you think they're telling God? *(Pause for responses.)* The people are saying, "Thank you, God." ► ***We thank God*** in many ways, and one good way is through prayer. Another way to thank God is by singing him songs. Let's sing our new thank-you song to God.

Set Cuddles out of sight of the children.



Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Toddlers & 2s granted for local church use.
Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538. group.com

■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead the children in singing “We Thank God in Many Ways” (track 16). Use the CD and sing to the tune of “London Bridge.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)—
Clap our hands; sing his praise. (*Clap three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.*)

We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)
Because we love him. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)

We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)—
Jump and hop; sing his praise. (*Hop three times; then cup your hands around your mouth.*)

We thank God in many ways (*walk around in a circle*)
Because we love him. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)

Say: **I know God heard our happy thank-you song! And it makes God happy when we thank him. Another good way to thank God is to learn about him. Our StoryBoard time teaches us about God. Now let’s make pretend carpet squares to sit on just like the boys and girls on our StoryBoard.**

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: newspaper, construction paper and scraps from Bible Story, stickers, crayons, glue sticks

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out glue sticks, construction paper scraps, crayons, and colorful stickers. Hand each child an 8½x11-inch sheet of construction paper. Say: **The children on the StoryBoard are sitting on carpet squares to listen to the Bible story and to learn about God. We can make mats to sit on.** Show children how to tear pieces of paper and then glue the pieces onto their “mats” to create pretty designs. Let children add stickers and pretty crayon scribbles. Write children’s names on the back of their mats.

As children work on their mats, say: **The Bible says in Psalm 107:1 that ►we thank God.** When children have finished decorating their projects, say: **There are many ways ►we thank God.** Let’s use our new mats to play a thank-you game.



Let toddlers use bingo ink-daubers to add colorful dots on craft projects. They’re fun to use and virtually mess-free!

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: mats from Bible Craft

Invite children to place their mats from the Bible Craft on the floor anywhere they'd like. Say: **We're going to march around the room and say a rhyme together. But when I clap my hands, hop over to your mat and sit down. Then we'll say, ▶“We thank God!”**

Lead children in a high-stepping march around the room. As you march, repeat the following rhyme and encourage children to repeat the rhyme with you.

**March, march, one, two...
Thank you, God, we love you!**

Clap your hands, and pause as children hop to their mats and sit down. Then lead everyone in enthusiastically repeating the Bible Point. Repeat the marching rhyme a few more times, and then have children bring their mats to the center of the room. Say: **You did a great job thanking God! And I can tell you had fun, too. We'll sit on our mats while we eat a snack.**



Closing

■ Delicious Designs

SUPPLIES: variety of cereals, napkins, cupcake liners, mats from Bible Craft

Have children wash their hands and return to their mats. Say: **We've been learning that ▶we thank God for all he gives us. One of the most important ways we tell God thank you is when we pray.**



Let's pray together now. Pray: Dear God, thank you for all the special things you give us. The most special thing you gave us was Jesus, our forever friend. We thank you so much for Jesus! Help us to always remember to thank you for everything. In Jesus' name, amen.

Hand each child a napkin and a cupcake liner containing a variety of child-friendly cereals. Say: **Spread out your napkins. Then use your snacks to make a pretty “thank-you” design to God.** Pause while children lay their cereal pieces in designs on their napkins. Then say: **Let's all say, “Thank you, God!” and gobble our goodies.**

Remind toddlers to throw their napkins and cupcake liners in the wastebasket. Be sure children take their mats home. Encourage toddlers to use the mats as a place to pray and sing to God.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Thank You, Thank You*

Form a sitting circle. Hand the punch-out Bible from the StoryBoard to one child. Have that child take the Bible to a friend, and encourage the friend to say, “thank you” as he or she holds the Bible. Have the child taking the Bible sit in the place of the person receiving the Bible. Continue until everyone has taken and received the Bible at least once.

■ *Sing It Out*

Without using the *CD*, lead the children in singing “We Thank God” (adapted from Psalm 107:1) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Have older toddlers do the actions in parentheses with a friend.



SING

Thank you, God, for food and friends (*pat a friend’s shoulder*)
And your love that never ends. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)
Thank you for the clothes we wear (*point at your clothes*)
And for church where we can share. (*Make a rooftop over your head.*)

We thank God. (*Fold your hands.*)
We thank God. (*Fold your hands.*)
We thank God (*fold your hands*),
And we love him, too. (*Nod your head.*)

(*Repeat.*)

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

