

Building Blocks
2011 Thanksgiving Activity packet



Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

2011 Thanksgiving Packet – Building Blocks

The ideas presented in this packet are for you to use and adapt to teach and encourage your child to be thankful in all circumstances, giving all glory and praise to God; being thankful for who God is, for who He created us to be, for what He has done, and for the sweet blessings from Him.

1) Thanking God for Who He Is :

Objective: to teach your child who God is, that all glory should be given to Him alone, and we can honor God with our praise/adoration for Him

LESSON/CRAFT: “Thankful Wreath...all hands pointing to God!”

Materials needed:

- Handout from Judy Wimberley’s talk “the TRUTH about the True God” (attached in packet)
- White paper
- Washable Paint (red, yellow, orange, brown, and green)
- Colored paper (optional—use the above colors if you don’t have/want to paint)
- Markers or colors
- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Glue or stapler

Activity:

1. Teach your child several of “God’s Attributes” from Judy’s handout!
2. Have your child paint a piece of paper (using red, yellow, orange, brown, and green paint).
3. While the paint is drying, make the base of the wreath by... Cutting a half circle out of the middle of the paper plate (leaving the bottom half there). On the bottom half of the half circle write: “God you ARE ...”. Then below that write: “...and we thank you that You are who you say you are!”
Once the paint is dry, trace your child’s hand several times on the painted paper, and cut them out. *You could trace your child’s hand on various colored paper and cut it out instead of painting*
4. Write and/or draw a picture of an “attribute of God” on the palm of each hand.
5. Thank God for who He is and how you’ve seen Him manifest Himself in/through you/others with each specific attribute!!
6. Glue/staple your child’s hands to the outer circle of paper plate, pointing all hands to God!

As an extension to this activity, you could write the ways you/your child have seen each attribute displayed in his/her life on each finger of the attribute that it goes with.

Example:

Palm of hand: CREATOR

Thumb: "baby brother/sister"

Pointer finger: "trees"

Tallman: "sun/moon"

Ringman: "animals"

Pinkie: "water"

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. Psalm 95:2 (ESV)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4 (NIV)

They will sing of your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. Psalm 145:7 (NIV)

2) Thanking God for Who He Created Us to Be :

Objective: to thank God for allowing us to enjoy what He has created and given us and for creating us with purpose and intention

BOOKS:

The Pumpkin Patch Parable by Liz Curtis Higgs

My Happy Pumpkin: God's Love Shining Through Me by Crystal Bowman and Claudine Gevry

SONG: God Made the Sun

God made the sun (put arms over head in circle)

God made the trees (hold arms up at shoulders with fingers spread like trees)

God made the mountains (hands at chest making a triangle like a mountain)

and God made me! (give self a hug)

Thank you for the sun (repeat hand signals for all below lines)

Thank you for the trees

Thank you for the mountains

and Thank you for me!

LESSON/ACTIVITY: "I am Thankful for" BOOK

Materials needed:

- White paper (or light, colored paper)
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Markers or colors

Activity (This may be an activity that is done over the span of a week...a page per day):

1. Cut paper in half (or you could leave it whole).
2. Staple paper along one side to form a book.
3. Create an "I'm thankful for..." book by illustrating the sentence on each page and/or finishing the sentence on the page and drawing/coloring an illustration to go with it:
 - Cover Page – "I'm Thankful for ..." (Write title and let your child decorate it however they want.)
 - Page 1 – "I'm thankful for my family!" (Write sentence and have your child draw a picture of your family.)
 - Page 2 – "I'm thankful for my friends!" (Write sentence and have your child draw a picture of their friends and talk about the qualities that make a good friend.)
 - Page 3 – "I'm thankful for my home!" (Write sentence and draw a picture of your home and talk about what other types of homes other kids may live in.)
 - Page 4 – "I'm thankful for my toys!" (Write sentence and draw a picture of your child's favorite toy(s) and talk about the importance of sharing.)

- Page 5 – “I’m thankful for my gift of _____!” (Write sentence, filling in the blank...Help your child come up with something that the Lord has really gifted your child in/with, i.e. generosity, reading, being a good listener, being good at math/problem solving, encouraging other, helping out with baby brother/sister, compassion, etc..., and illustrate him/her using it....talk about the importance of using that to please/glorify God!)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

3) Thanking God for What He has Done :

Objective: to celebrate the gift of Jesus and what He did and the hope that gives for each of us!

BOOK: The Pumpkin Gospel By Mary Manz Simon

SONG: Thank the Lord (To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat.")

Thank thank thank the Lord
For the things He gives
He takes sins away
pray to Him everyday
live a life He wants you to live

FOOD IDEA: Popcorn Praise

Ingredients/Item(s) needed:

- Unpopped popcorn
- Popcorn popper

Directions:

1. Show the children the unpopped popcorn and tell them that the kernels are like children who haven't found Jesus. Without the warmth of God's love they haven't burst to life.
2. Pop the popcorn.
3. When God's love warms our hearts we burst with happiness, and praises to Jesus burst out of us. We can't help but tell others how much we love Him and how great we think He is.
4. Eat the popcorn.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1 (NIV)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (NIV)

4) Thanking God for Blessings:

Objective: to celebrate all the reasons you have to be grateful (in all circumstances).

BOOKS:

What is Thanksgiving? By Michelle Medlock Adams

P is for Pumpkin: God's Harvest Alphabet By Kathy-jo Wargin

GAME: Alphabet Thanks!

Materials needed:

- Each letter of the alphabet (A-Z), on separate squares of paper
- Bowl

Activity/game:

1. Place all the letter in a bowl.
2. Have each child draw one piece of paper/letter at a time from the bowl.
3. Then tell God "thank you" for something that begins with the letter he/she picked.

LESSON/ACTIVITY: Gratitude Jar

Materials Needed:

Jar/Container

Jelly Beans OR some sort of manipulative to fill the jar/container with

Activity:

1. Teach the definition of THANKFULNESS: Being grateful in ALL circumstances!
2. Encourage your child to think of as many ways as he/she can think of to be thankful for each day (every day, throughout the day).
3. Add a jelly bean or some sort of object/manipulative to the jar/container for each thing!
4. Once the jar/container is full, throw a "THANK YOU LORD!" Party!
5. Celebrate all the reasons you have to be thankful!!

Try to find ways to be grateful each day, even when it doesn't seem to be a joyful or pleasant thing/situation For example: Your child didn't get the exact food he/she wanted for lunch, but instead of throwing a fit or being upset, help your child thank God for the food they have and who made it.

For everything God created is good, and nothing to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. 1 Timothy 4:4 (NIV)

Names and Attributes of God

All knowing (Omniscient)	Ps. 147:5, Job 37:16
Alpha and Omega	Rev. 1:8
Anchor	Heb 6:19
Bread	John 6:35
Creator	1 Peter 4:19
Doesn't slumber or sleep	Ps. 121:3-4
Door	John 10:7
Eternal	Deut. 33:27
Everywhere (Omnipresent)	Psalms 139
Faithful	Lam. 3:23
Gate	John 10:7-9
Gentleness	Ps. 18:35
Grace	Ex. 3:6-7, Ps. 86:15, Joel 2:13
Hiding place	Psalms 32:7
I AM	Ex. 3:14
Judge	Acts 10:42
Just	Rom. 8:1
King	Zech 9:9
Light, Lamp	John 8:12
Lion of Judah	Rev. 5:5
Living water	John 4:10
Love	Ps. 136, Jer. 31:3, 1 John 4:8
Mercy	Ps. 25:6
Patient	Ps. 86:15
Potter	Ps. 64:8
Protector	Ps. 27:9, Ps. 33:20, Ps. 46:1
Redeemer	Ps. 25:5, Job 19:25
Resurrection	John 11:25-26
Rock	Ps. 18:2
Root	Rev. 5:5, Rev. 22:16, Is 53:2
Shepherd	Ps. 23:3, John 10:14-16, Is. 40:11
Shield	Ps. 18:2, Gen 15:1
Song	Ps. 118:14, Is. 12:2, Zeph 3:17
Strong (Omnipotent)	Is. 9:6, Ps. 24:8
Strong Tower	Prov. 18:10
Truth	John 14:6
Unchanging	Mal. 3:6, Ps. 33:11, Heb 13:8
Vine	John 15:5
Wing	Ps. 17:8
Wisdom	1 Cor. 1:24

