



NOVEMBER THEME

RE-FOCUS

Know Where to Look

BIBLE STORY

Psalm 100:1-5

Keep Psalm and Be Thankful | A Psalm of Thanksgiving

BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate what God has done

MEMORY VERSE

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV

LIFE APP

Gratitude | Letting others know you see how they’ve helped you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **GRATITUDE** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

This WEEK: Key Question: What are you grateful for? We kick off a month on gratitude by helping kids and their families to refocus on their own life and discover reasons they can be thankful. We’re so busy with life that we don’t take the time to pause and notice what God has done for us. We hope families take the time throughout the year to ask themselves this question.

We start our look at gratitude with **Psalm 100** where we read, “Shout for joy to the Lord, everyone on earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come to Him with songs of joy” (NirV). God has done so much for us through the gift of Jesus, it’s only fitting that we respond with a heart of gratitude.

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done. We hope to give kids and families the opportunity to think about all the ways God has shown them love and faithfulness throughout the year. We want them to get excited and celebrate God’s goodness.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for what God has done already in the lives of your few. Take a few moments to celebrate the relationships God has given your group and thank God for the opportunity to lead them.

•• JUST FOR FUN

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask your small group what the best celebration ever would include.
- Ask kids if anyone has ever thrown them a celebration. What was it for?

•• THANKSGIVING SILLY STORY

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Thanksgiving Silly Story” activity pages, pens

What You Do:

- Explain to kids that they’re going to write a fill-in-the-blank silly story that will end in



a pretty funny way.

- Pair kids up. Give each pair a pen and a “Thanksgiving Silly Story” activity page.
- Encourage the pair to assign one partner to ask questions and the other to answer them. (*They can switch roles halfway through, if they choose.*)
- The kid who asks the questions can write in the blanks to complete the story.
- Make sure kids understand that the more zany/creative/silly/funny their answers are, the better the final story will be.
- When they finish, allow each pair to share their story with the group.

What You Say: “Wow! You have created some super funny stories! It’s fun to talk about all of our favorite things isn’t it? **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard what the Bible has to say about our favorite things.”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Pass out the paper and pens.
- Challenge kids to think of all the things they are grateful for in their lives.
- Tell them that their goal is to write down as many of those things as they can in 3 minutes.
—After one minute, encourage them to stop and rest their hands. They can compare quickly with a nearby friend, which will help them think of new things to write.
—After two minutes, give them another breather and have them look at another person’s answers for ideas.
- After three minutes, tell them to go back and count how many things they came up with during the three minutes of writing time. Ask them to write that number at the top of their paper.
- Give them a chance to brag by asking everyone to stand up if they wrote down 20 things—call out other numbers and kids should start sitting down until you have one person left—the person who wrote down the most things.
- Ask that person what his or her secret was to writing down so many things—did they just write really fast? Or did they have a lot of things they’re grateful for? Or maybe a combination of both things?
- Follow up by asking the group if they think they could come up with more things if you gave them more time.
- Dare them to circle something they are thankful for that they don’t think anyone else thought of. Go around the group, letting students share that one thing.
- Finish up by asking them to raise their hand if they found this activity hard.
—Ask, “Why?”
—Then ask who found this activity easy; ask, “Why?”

What You Say: Imagine if we tried to add up all the things you guys wrote down. That would be a lot of things we are thankful for. And there are lots more we could add. But we get so busy and we take so many things for granted that we forget to stop and be thankful.



Today we are going to pause and celebrate what God has done in our lives and in the world around us. Another Psalm, chapter 103, verse 2 says, *"I will praise the Lord. I won't forget anything he has done for me."*

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bible, dice, optional: technology to take pictures and movies

What You Do:

- Ask your group to find Psalm 100.
- Tell them that you're going to take turns, each reading one sentence.
- Then, pass the dice around the circle.
 - If an odd number is rolled, the kid should tell what he/she thinks it was like to worship God in biblical times.
 - If an even number is rolled, he/she should give an example of what it's like to worship God today.
- Challenge your group to set up a scene that shows people who love God worshipping and celebrating God, then and now.
 - They can set everyone up and freeze in one pose like a picture or they can act something out.
 - If you have technology, they can take pictures or record their scenes being acted out.
 - They might also choose to interview people. If they are from Bible times, they should talk and respond as if they are from that time. This could also be recorded.

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask and discuss some of the following questions...
 - What are other words—synonyms—like the word "worship?"
 - How about "praise the Lord?" How could you say that differently that would make sense to a younger child?
 - Do these words mean different things over time, or do they stay the same? Explain your answer.
 - What's your favorite way or place to celebrate and worship God?
 - What happens to us when we can't find or see things to be grateful for in our lives?
 - Would you rather be around someone who is thankful and glad or someone who doesn't think there's a lot to be thankful for? Why? What are they like? How does that make you feel?

●● **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Share Psalm 150:6 by reading out loud, *"Let everything (emphasized) that has breath praise the Lord."* (NIRV)
- Pass out the paper and pens.
- Place a chair up front or in the middle of the group. Ask them to imagine that God is sitting in the chair.
- Explain that you're going to take a minute to celebrate God—to praise and thank God.
- To get kids started, ask them to think about some of the Bible stories that detail how God came through for God's people; stories like David and Goliath, Moses and the parting of the Red Sea, saving humanity through Noah and the ark, etc.



- Model how to write something on the paper like, “God, you are... *(fill in the blank)*,” or “God, I thank you because...”
- Instruct kids to write something on their paper, thanking God for what God has done for people throughout history, or for them personally, and praising God for who God is.
- Remind them that there are no right or wrong answers if they come from their hearts.
- Tell them that once they have something written, they can tear it off and put it on the “God chair”. Then they can think of something else, write that down, tear it out, and add it to the chair. Continue until the chair is covered with notes of celebration!

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the group to think about all the activities today and assess whether it was easy or hard for them to come up with things to be grateful for and things to celebrate about God.
- Challenge those who found it easy to ask God what their next step could be.
—Prompt them to pray and think about how they could turn this thankfulness into action—into helping others—because they know they are so blessed and have so much.
- Encourage anyone who found it difficult to be thankful right now or to celebrate God.
—Prompt them to pray this week that God would give them a little nudge and highlight things to be grateful for so they stand out more.
—As you close in prayer, pray that they will clearly see where God is at work and someone God is working through to help them have more reasons to celebrate...

Dear Jesus, we want to be thankful people. You say in the Bible many times that we are supposed to praise you and to give thanks. Help us to do that today and all this week. Help make us aware of what’s going on around us and to be more sensitive than ever for what’s good. As we become more thankful, help it change us from the inside out so that we would, in turn, try to do good for others because we know we have so much to share. In Your name we pray. Amen.

What You Do: As adults arrive to pick up, give each child a **GodTime** card.