



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 month 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. 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.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

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:

- Welcome kids as they arrive. Ask:
 - What is something you love in nature? Why?
 - What is something you love about a family member or friend?

•• **CELEBRATION DAYS**

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Craft sticks, crayons, tape, ribbon, scissors



What You Do:

- Pass out a craft stick and some ribbon to each child.
- Pass out the crayons for kids to decorate their sticks.
- Show the children how to tape the ribbon to the tops of their sticks to create a celebration stick they can wave.
- Talk about special days throughout the year that you celebrate (*like Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, etc.*). Discuss the questions below as they decorate their sticks.
- Ask:
 - What are some special days you celebrate?
 - What are some things you do on those days to celebrate?

What You Say: “Your celebration sticks look awesome! We celebrate so many fun things throughout the year, but did you know there is SOMEONE we can celebrate every day? [Transition] Today in Sunday CM Worship/WOW Family Worship we’ll find out/we found out who it is.”

[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.

●● **PRAISE HIM CARDS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Praise Him” activity cards

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to close their eyes, and keep them closed as you set a “Praise Him” activity card in front of each group member.
- When everyone has a card, instruct the kids to open their eyes and take a look at their card.
- Explain that the picture on each card represents something that God has done that we can celebrate.
- Go around the circle and ask each kid to hold up his card for the rest of the group to see and share what they think that card represents. (**NOTE:** Below are some possible answers. The kids may give differing answers; just listen and redirect if needed. Some answers may be super creative!)
- Cross: God sent Jesus
- Hands: God made us
- Sunset: God made the sun to keep us warm
- Rainbow: God always keeps his promises; God gives us beauty in nature to enjoy
- House: God provides what we need
- Friends: God gives us good friends
- Bible: God has given us God’s Word
- Fruit: God gives us good things to eat
- Heart: God loves us; God gives us the ability to love and be loved
- Family: God gives us a family to love or people to care for us

What You Say: “Wow! Great answers, everyone. What a loving, mighty, creative, and powerful God. God has done so many wonderful



things for us and it's important to celebrate all that God has done. That's what gratitude is all about—letting someone know you see how they've helped you. We can **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done** by praising and thanking God for all these things and so much more!" **[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about something God has done specifically for you. How did you thank God?)**

●● **FOCUSED THANKSGIVING** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: "Camera of Thanks" and "Picture Strips" activity pages, crayons, scissors

What You Do:

- Pass out a "Camera of Thanks" and "Picture Strip" to each kid.
- Point out the three sections of the strip. Instruct the kids to draw three pictures of things that God has made—one in each section of the strip.
- If time allows, let kids color the camera too.
- As they finish their picture strips, help the kids cut a slit on each side of their camera so they can slide their picture strips through and display each image inside the camera lens.
- Let the kids pull their picture strips through the camera to see their images.
- If time allows, let each kid share one of their pictures with the group.

What You Say: "Your pictures are beautiful! God has made so many amazing things, including you! Look at all the creativity God has put in each of you. God has done so much for us. I want you to take this home and place it next to your bed. Each night before you go to bed, take a look at one of the pictures and thank God for what you've drawn. That is one big way to help you remember to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done** this week."

●● **MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Use the navigation tips below to help the kids look up this month's memory verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Finding verses with Kindergartners and 1st graders: Open the Bible to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold it up to show the kids what the page looks like.*) Then, lead them to find 1 Thessalonians in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that 1 Thessalonians starts with a number "1" and the letter "T." When the kids find 1 Thessalonians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Thessalonians. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Thessalonians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 5.

- Read the verse aloud and then repeat the verse all together.
- Teach the motions listed below to help the kids learn the verse:
 - "Give thanks" – prayer hands
 - "in all circumstances" – wave hands to include everything
 - "God's" – point to the sky
 - "for you" – point to each other
 - "in Christ Jesus." – make a cross with your arms.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – place hands together like a book
- Repeat, saying the verse with the motions, as time and interest allow.



What You Say: “We can give thanks to God no matter what happens. Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you. If you don’t say it and you don’t show it, no one will know it! So let’s remember to show gratitude and **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.**”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Copy paper, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid one piece of copy paper. Set out crayons where everybody can share them.
- Ask each kid to draw or write one thing they want to thank God for. *(It can be one of the same things they drew on their “Camera of Thanks.”)*
- Collect the papers and ask kids to share about what they drew.
- As they share, write a few words on the backs of the papers to remind yourself what the kids’ drawings are about.
- Make sure you collect the papers and store them in your leader bin, as you will add to it each week this month to create a gratitude journal.

What You Say: “This month we’re going to create a gratitude journal to help us remember and focus on the things we’re thankful for. We’ll add something different each week as we pray together. Remember, we need to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.** One way we can do that is by telling God that we’re thankful. How do we talk to God? *(Pause.)* That’s right! We pray. So let’s pray together... *(NOTE: if you made “Celebration Sticks” you can wave them as you pray...)*

“Heavenly Father, we love you so much. Thank you for ALL you’ve done for us. You made us. You love us. You sent Jesus and gave us your Word, the Bible. You’ve given us family and friends to love. Thank you for all the ways you take care of us. Help us to remember to say thank you this week. We love you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

What You Do: Prompt kids to show their “Camera of Thanks” to the adults as they arrive. Remind them to put their “cameras” on their bedside tables and to thank God for one of the things they’ve drawn each night before they go to sleep. Give each child a **GodTime** card.