

City LG - November 4 & 5, 2017

Bible Story: Keep Psalm and Be Thankful (A psalm of thanksgiving) • *Psalm 100:1-5*

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

Memory Verse: "Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus." *1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV*

WORSHIP: Praise Goes On and Never Gonna Stop Singing

"Hello friends! My name is (your name, and leaders with you) and we're so excited to be here with you today, and we love getting to spend some time worshipping God with music and singing. Everyone jump up to your feet, because we have a couple really fun songs to sing today. The first is a song all about giving praise to God. Praise means we sing with excitement about who God is, and what He has does for us. This is "Praise Goes On!"

"Great job everyone! Our 2nd song, is a lot of fun too, and it has some silly dance moves. This song is all about singing to God, lifting His name up, and never stopping our love for Jesus. This is "Never Gonna Stop Singing!"

LARGE GROUP WELCOME:

"Hey, hey, City! My name is (your name) and I am SO glad that you're hanging out with us today! I want to say WELCOME to "The City", the place where we have the most FUN time with the most FUN people! If you like having fun, raise one arm like this! (*Raise your right arm.*) Then raise your other arm like this! (*Raise your left arm.*) And give yourself a high-five and say, 'Let the fun begin!'"

KIDS: (*Give yourself a high-five*) "Let the fun begin!"

"I like the way you guys think! Having fun is the best! And today we start talking about something that I happen to think is super-dee-dooper WHOPPER-level fun. And it all has to do with a big word called gratitude. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS: "Gratitude."

"Gratitude, that's right! Who thinks they know what that word means? Raise your hand. (*Look around the room.*) You do?! All right, let's find out together!"

CG: Gratitude Slide

"Gratitude is letting others know you see how they've helped you. Why don't we all read that together?"

KIDS: "Gratitude is letting others know you see how they've helped you."

"In other words, gratitude means you say or show others that you are thankful. Like when your mom packs your favorite lunch and you give her a hug on your way out the door or when your friend lets you borrow a pencil at school and you give them a fist bump and say thanks, THAT'S gratitude. There are like a bajillion different ways to express gratitude! Gratitude IS fun.

"Let's practice some gratitude right now. Everyone look at their neighbor and say, 'Hey, thanks for being here!'"

KIDS: "Hey, thanks for being here."

GRATITUDE BALLOON OBJECT LESSON:

Supplies Needed: Balloon and Pump

"See? Gratitude is cool! Do you know what else is cool? Filling up a balloon with gratitude. (*show balloon*). This is the gratitude balloon. Every time we share something we are thankful for, the balloon gets bigger. Who wants to help me? (*allow children to share what they are thankful for, pump up the balloon every time they do, until the balloon pops/is full.*) When we give our thanks to God, it is like we are filling our lives up and making us stronger and happier. Great job helping me fill the Gratitude Balloon everyone!"

"Did you know that there is a whole book of the Bible filled with lyrics to worship songs? It's true! It's called the Book of Psalms. These lyrics, that we call psalms, were written thousands of years ago, but we still use them in many of the songs we sing today! Crazy, right?! The writers of these psalms used their words to express their trust and hope in God. Many of them were songs of praise for all the amazing things that God has done! And the Psalm we get to look at today talks about taking time out to show gratitude to God and celebrate all He's done for us! Let's look at it together..."

CG: WEEK 1 Lesson Video Runtime (6:25)

"If we were to stop and think about it, we could think of TONS of things that God has done for us. We could think of all the ways He takes care of us and shows His love for us, like a full tummy, a warm bed, a toy to play with, and a hand to hold. God does all of that for us. And we should celebrate it. In fact, that's our Bottom Line for today!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "Celebrate what God has done. Can you say it with me?"

KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** "Celebrate what God has done."

"One more time! How can we show gratitude?"

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Celebrate what God has done.”

“That’s right! (*Motion to the four boards.*) God loves us, He gives to us, and He takes care of us. We have so much to celebrate! Once again, let’s shout for joy to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done!** On the count of three everyone shout, ‘Joy to the Lord.’ One, two, three!”

KIDS: “Joy to the Lord!”

“Awesome! Let’s pray and thank God right now for all He has done!”

Pray: “God, we celebrate YOU! You gave us the earth and everything in it. You give us families, and homes, and friends, and food. You even sent us Your only Son to so we could be in Your family forever. Thank You, God. We love You! We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen!”

We can celebrate all that God has done in more ways than one. We can pray and thank God for the things we have. We can tell others about all the things God has done for us. We can celebrate all God has done when we sing songs about Him. We can also celebrate what God has done by doing things for other people. There are MANY ways to celebrate the MANY things God has done for us.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“But no matter what that looks like, we need to be sure and **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.** Turn to your neighbor and say that one more time.”

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Celebrate what God has done.”

“That’s right! God deserves all the gratitude we can give Him. It’s time for Small Group, where you’ll get to learn more about what it means to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done!**

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)