

City SG - 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*

1. Thanksgiving Silly Story

What You Need: "Thanksgiving Silly Story" Activity Pages (6 per bin, per service), 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 an 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.

2. Praise Him Cards

What You Need: "Praise Him Cards" (one pack of 10 per group, plus blanks and extra packs in case they get ripped), large ball & tape (one per group)

What You Do:

- Tape the Praise Him Cards blank side up, randomly around the outside of the ball. (*Note: If you have more than 10 kids, tape some blank cards onto the ball as well so each kid will have a card.*)
- Gather all the kids in a circle and ask them to stand up (or get on their knees).
- Ask the kids to close their eyes, keep them closed, and pass the ball around the circle.
- During their turn, each child should remove one card and pass the ball to the next person.
- When the ball has made its way around the circle and everyone has a card, instruct the kids to open their eyes, have a seat, 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; He gives us beauty in nature to enjoy
- House: God provides what we need
- Friends: God gives us good friends
- Bible: God has given us His 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
- Blank: Let the kids name something God has done that they can celebrate (be prepared to help kids with their answers if necessary)

What You Say:

“Wow! Great answers, everyone. What a loving, mighty, creative, and powerful God. He has done so many wonderful things for us and it’s important to celebrate all He’s 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 Him 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 Him?)***

3. Focused Thanksgiving

What You Need: “Camera of Thanks” and “Picture Strips” Activity Pages (one per child), markers

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.
- When they finish their picture strips, help the kids slide their strips into the slits in the camera.
- Have the kids slide their picture strips through and display each image inside the camera lens.
- 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 He’s put in each of you. He 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.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Do:

- Ask everyone to quietly think of something God has given them that they're thankful for.
- As kids think of what they're thankful for, close the group in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, I know I often come to You to ask You for things, but today I just want to pray a prayer of celebration. You have given me so much to be grateful for, and You are such an amazing God! Even when I feel like I'm in need of something, I can always celebrate what You have done. Thank You for loving me and overflowing me with blessings! In Jesus' name, Amen!"

5. God Time Sheets

- What You Need: "God Time" Sheets (one per child), pens (one per child)

NOTE: The God Time sheets are intended to be a closing time activity each week in The City. Children will begin working on their sheets, as well as be encouraged to bring their sheets back the following week for a prize. Children cannot turn in their sheets the same week for a prize. The goal is to keep the lesson on their minds and in front of them throughout the following week.