

City SG - November 25 & 26, 2017

Bible Story: Gratitude Is with You . . . Always (Give thanks no matter what) •

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Bottom Line: Always be grateful.

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. Tough Stuff

What You Need: Colored paper (one half sheet per child)

What You Do:

- Invite each kid to choose one piece of paper (it's best if they don't all have the same color for this project)
- Encourage them to write or draw a picture of something they are facing that is difficult. For example: they are nervous about a spelling test, their friend is mad at them, or they are going to a new school.
- Tell kids that you will keep these papers for a later activity.

2. Thanks Anyway

What You Need: “Give Thanks” tree on cardstock (one per child), glue sticks, pictures from Activity 1

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to rip up the pictures they drew earlier into the tiniest pieces possible.
- Hand out a “Give thanks” tree on cardstock to each kid.
- Instruct them to fold the cardstock in half like a greeting card.
- Using glue stick, they can trace the branches of the tree
- Encourage them to take those tiny pieces of paper and place them on the tree – if the kids want, they can mix up the tiny pieces from others in their group to make a more colorful tree
- Set aside and allow cards to dry
- Tell kids they can use the cards they made to write a thank you note for someone later this week.

What You Say:

“We all face situations in our lives that are difficult. It's not always easy to feel like we can be grateful, especially when things aren't going our way. But just like we made a beautiful tree out of our drawings of difficult situations, you can always make the best out of something bad by finding something to be grateful for. No matter what you are facing, you can **[Bottom Line] always be grateful.**”

[Make It Personal] (Describe a time when you were facing something difficult but you were able to find something to be thankful for in that hard time.)

3. Thankful Always

What You Need: “Thankful Verse Cards” Activity Pages, beanbags, masking tape, timer or stopwatch

- Before setting out the verse cards, ask kids if anyone can say the verse completely from memory. Take two or three volunteers and let them say the verse.
- Tape the verse cards to the floor in random order, space them out for what’s appropriate in your area.
- Divide kids into pairs or let them pick partners.
- Place a piece of tape a distance away from the verse cards and instruct kids to stand behind it.
- Let one pair at a time take turns throwing beanbags at the cards and attempting to land a beanbag on each card in verse order.
- Time each pair as they take their turn. The pair with the lowest time wins!

What You Say:

“We all have things going on in our lives right now that are hard to handle! It’s easy to want a way out or just complain about them. But our verse tells us that no matter what we are facing, we can ***[Bottom Line] always be grateful!***”

4. Pray and Dismiss

- Gather the group together for prayer.
- Prompt the child on your right to pray and thank God for the child on her right, saying something specific about that person. Continue this around the circle.
- If a kid doesn’t want to participate, step in and thank God for the person on that child’s right.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, I pray that this week You will help us all have a heart of gratitude! I don’t just ask this so that we would be happy, but I’m asking for Your glory to be shown to all we see. What a great testimony it is to people that even when we are going through something tough we can ***[Bottom Line] always be grateful!*** I pray that we honor You and love You by making this happen! In Jesus’ name, amen!”

NOTE: As adults arrive to pick up, hand out the “God Time” Take Home Sheets, and remind children to bring them back the next week for a prize.