

Alley Rundown—November 1st, 2020

Today's Bible Story: Always Something There to Remind Me (Give Thanks No Matter What Happens) • 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Today's Key Question: What are you grateful for?

Today's Bottom Line: You always have something to be grateful for.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.*
Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

Early Arriver Activity: Which is Worse? Activity

NOTE: Begin this Activity, using the Computer Slides, 10 minutes before your Service start time. Children will choose which option they think is worse, and stand on that side of the room.

CG: Countdown Video (Runtime: 1:00)

WORSHIP: Never Gonna Stop Singing

Worship Leader prays...

"Hey everybody! Great to see you. I'm so excited to begin another month together. To start, let me ask you a question. What are you thankful for? (allow a few responses) I have to believe that each one of us is thankful for something. In fact, we're probably grateful for a whole lot of somethings. But have you ever stopped to think about and name those things? Maybe all of us have faced moments when no matter how hard we tried, we couldn't name a single thing to be grateful for. Maybe life is difficult, or maybe we're distracted, but whatever the case, we find it hard to name even one thing we're grateful for. What do you do when you find it hard to show gratitude? It's a good question actually, one that God inspired the people who wrote the Bible to discuss. Let's head to one of those moments today.

"Let's dive into this idea of gratitude. Now, you might remember a guy named Paul. If you were here last week, you'll remember we were talking about Paul, whose official title was an apostle, which meant he was 'sent out' to bring the message of Jesus to others. Paul went on several long and faraway journeys going from city to city all around the Mediterranean Sea telling people about Jesus and what He did for everyone."

"And in each of these cities, Paul would start new churches, organizing the followers of Jesus into groups. But once Paul left a city, how would he still communicate with those groups of Jesus-followers? How would he teach them and encourage them? How would they ask questions and support him as well? The answer to this question, and more can be found in this week's Episode. Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:30)

"You know, it is one thing to give thanks. I have a lot of things that are going right in my life that I can easily give thanks for. That verse is easy if it just says 'give thanks.' But the fact that the sentence continues and says 'no matter what' is a much different story. That's much harder. It takes more work. You have to see your life with different eyes, believing that there is more than just what is in front of you. More than just the bad day. More than just the bad situation. I think that is why Paul then said that you can give thanks no matter what because you believe in Jesus Christ."

"As a follower of Jesus, we do things differently. We love those who we are supposed to hate. We serve instead of grabbing for power. And we learn to give thanks even when it is hard to see anything worth being grateful for. And as we live differently, other people will notice, not us, but the One who is living through us."

"Today as we close our talk, think about this question,

SLIDE: Key Question

“What are you grateful for? Maybe right now is an easy season and the answers will just fly out of your mouth for this question. But for some of you, these last few months have been tough, and answering this question may be a challenge. But remember, you can give thanks no matter what. Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus. Let's ask God to help us be thankful no matter what is happening around us. Let's pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

NOTE: After prayer, lead your group in the “All Together Activities” using the attached sheet as a guide.