

CITY LG – November 4-6, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Give Thanks (Give Thanks No Matter What Happens) • 1 Thessalonians 5:18

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

Monthly Memory Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever. Psalm 136:1 (NIRV)

WORSHIP

Unshakeable

Love's Running After

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

Hello, everyone! I hope you're excited for a brand-new month here in the CITY. I know I am!

I'm feeling extra-grateful today. I'm grateful to be here with all of you. I'm grateful for . . . *(name some of your favorite things)*. This month, we're talking about how we can show our gratitude!

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

You see, it's not just about FEELING thankful. It's about SHOWING how grateful you are. Let me show you how easy it can be. I want to give a special shout-out to *(name some Small Group Leaders in the room)* . . . and ALL of our amazing Small Group Leaders. They come here to church to help you learn about God, every single Sunday. Let's give them a big hand!

Lead the kids in applause for their leaders.

Did you see what I just did there? That's called a shout-out—when you point out something you're grateful for that someone else did. All month, we'll be finding out how we can show our gratitude to those around us. And a shout-out is a fantastic way to do just that.

I'm going to give you some time to discuss this question as a group....

Who is someone in your life that you are grateful for and why? *(walk around and listen to kids' answer is their groups. Bring them back together in a few minutes when most groups are done). If time, have a couple of kids share their answers with the group.*

I'm so glad that we have people in our lives who can help us. We should always take time to thank them and let them know how grateful we are. We should take time to thank God, too, because God is always good . . . and always there to help us. It's like we read in our memory verse for this month, Psalm 136:1.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever. (Psalm 136:1, NIRV)

SLIDE: Theme

Today, we're looking at a part of the Bible called First Thessalonians. *(Hold up Bible.)*

First Thessalonians is actually a letter, like a lot of the books in the New Testament. These letters were written to the people in different churches . . . to help people understand how to follow Jesus and know what was true.

Let's check out the Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme

Isn't it good to know that we can always find something to be grateful for? I know there are times in my life when it can be hard for me to remember to be grateful. When life gets hard or seems unfair, we just want to get angry or sad about it. But remember what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. We can CHOOSE to be thankful. I can do that, and you can, too! Let's stand up and see what our bottom line is.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

You always have something to be grateful for.

All of us will have to face situations in life when things don't our way. But even in those times, we can look around to find good things that God has given us. And we can always, ALWAYS be thankful for Jesus. We can be thankful because Jesus loves us and is with us through anything—good or bad!

Let's Pray...

Dear God, we can't thank You enough for how much You love us. You sent Jesus to be our Savior and our friend. You made a way for us to have a relationship with You that will last forever! Please help us find reasons to be thankful in our own lives, even when we're facing things that feel difficult or out of control. We know that You are ALWAYS there to help us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING:

Where has our offering money been going to this year? Yep, to families in Kenya! They are experiencing lack of food resources because of an on-going drought. We are collecting money for food baskets to bring the families who live in Turkana. If you have any offering, you can bring it up now while we watch this video of Turkana families receiving baskets.

Turkana video #2