THANKSGIVING "THANKFULNESS" (page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Exodus 15-16 (KBC Study Bible, pages 80-82)

Numbers 11 (KBC Study Bible, pages 156-157) (various verses within these chapters)

CHARACTER WORD

<u>Thankfulness</u> - Being grateful and sayiing so

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can be <u>thankful</u> to God for providing for my needs.

MEMORY LINK

1 Thessalonians 5:18b

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (KBC Study Bible, page 1307)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pencils, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Index cards
Option 2: Small ball or beanbag,
timer

BIBLE CONNECTION

2 candy bars

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pencils, highlighters

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Painter's tape, beanbags, red & blue paper Option 2: No supplies needed

Bonus Option 3: Resource Item, paper feathers, tape, blindfolds

The Israelites Grumble

WHAT'S THE POINT?

<u>Thankfulness</u> is an important trait to instill in children. Because Thanksgiving is coming, it's the perfect time to focus on having gratitude for the blessings God has given us. Like the Israelites in today's story, we tend to complain more than we give <u>thanks</u>. Our culture expects perfection and instant gratification. People feel entitled to more stuff that's bigger and better.

The encouragement is to slow down and reflect on God's goodness and the way He provides for our every need. Taking time to say "thank you" to God is a simple exercise in slowing down and acknowledging that God provides and gives us good things to enjoy.

Of course, <u>thanking</u> God for the gift of salvation is most important. Salvation through Jesus Christ is the only thing that lasts and that is certainly something for which to be <u>thankful</u>. Take a moment now to breathe a prayer of <u>thanks</u> for Jesus, our Savior.

GET CONNECTED

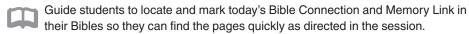


Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pencils, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson. Take a moment to review last week's Character Word and Memory Link and pass out all the supplies for today's lesson.

- Today's character word is "thankfulness." Who would like to read the definition of respect in the front of the KBC Study Bible? What are some things for which you are thankful?
- Who are some people you are thankful for and why?
- Do you tell these people you are thankful for them? Why or why not?
- During this season of Thanksgiving, to whom do you need to make an extra effort to show <u>thankfulness</u>?
- What are some ways you can show people you are thankful for them?



WORSHIP TIME



Pointing students' hearts toward God

Music is a powerful way we learn and remember. We all have amazing memories tied to music. The messages in the worship songs students learn in Beach Club® will be planted into their hearts and spirits. The truth of God in the songs you teach can help guide students for years, even into their adult years. Pray that God will draw a worship song to the memory of these boys and girls when they need a word from God, both today and for years to come.

Consider these song choices: "Million Reasons" and "Thankful", by Lifetree Kids.

MEMORY LINK



2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students

8 Minutes - Activity to help them memorize the verse

No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

Ask students to raise their Bibles high in the air and count how many remembered to bring their Bibles. Tell them that we are <u>thankful</u> for God's Word and that today's story focuses on <u>thankfulness</u>. Explain that today's story comes from the Old Testament books of Exodus and Numbers and that both books were written by a man named Moses.

Instruct students to open their Bibles to the Table of Contents and read the first five books of the Bible together. Tell students those 5 books are called "The Law" or "The Pentateuch" and are the words God told Moses to write down.

Focus on today's Memory Link 📖

Invite students to turn to page 1307 and call on a volunteer to read 1 Thessalonians 5:18b. Focus on "in everything give <u>thanks</u>." Talk about times it might be difficult to give <u>thanks</u>. Explain that even at times they might not feel <u>thankful</u>, that God always deserves our <u>thanks</u>.

Option 1 - READY, SET, ACTION!

No supplies needed

With whole group or in surf teams, encourage students to use the following actions while saying each part of the memory verse:

"In everything give thanks" - spread hands out and turn in a circle

"of God" - point above

"for you" - point to others

"1 Thessalonians 5:18b" – hold hands together out in front of you like you're holding your Bible

Option 2 - MEMORY RELAY

Small ball or beanbag, timer

Instruct students to sit in a circle. As they pass the ball around the circle, say one word of the memory verse as the ball is passed. Use the timer and encourage them to try to complete the activity faster each time.

THANKSGIVING "THANKFULNESS" (page 2)

1 Thessalonians 5:18b

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

(KBC Study Bible, page 1307)

Teaching Tip

It's important for students to realize that what is being taught to them comes from the Bible. It is true and never changing. So much information comes at students every day and it is not all true. Every week, have them look up the verse you are learning, read it aloud together, and mark it in their Bibles with their Memory Link Cards or a highlighter. This weekly repetition is good practice for them.

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BIBLE CONNECTION

10-15 MINUTES

Teaching today's character word through gospel-centered Bible story

2 candy bars

Set the Stage

Since today's character word is 'thankfulness', I want to say 'thank you' to two special Beach Club® leaders. Invite the 2 leaders you selected before the session to come up to the front. Give each leader a candy bar and thank them for serving in Beach Club®. One leader should act sincerely grateful. The other should complain about the candy they were given with statements like: "This is all the thanks I get? I don't even like this kind of candy." Would you respond in the same way? Why? I have to let you in on a secret - I told the leaders to respond in the ways they did. But we are going to learn in today's story about a group of people who were not thankful for the things that God gave to them. God miraculously provided for their needs, but it just wasn't good enough.

Tell the Story

Call on a volunteer to read out loud Exodus 15:22-24 (page 81). The people of Israel left a life of slavery in Egypt and were being led to a better life, a better place to live - all two million of them! Their leader was a man named Moses. The Israelites had traveled for 3 days in the desert without water. When they finally found water, it was bitter and they could not drink it, so the people got mad. God showed Moses, their leader, a piece of wood to throw into the water which made the water drinkable. Then, God promised to keep diseases away from the people as long as they kept all His commands. Sounds easy enough, right? But the people never said 'thank you' to God for the clean water or for God's promise.

Next, the Israelites complained because they were hungry and could not find enough food. They said they would have rather remained as slaves in Egypt than to die of hunger in the wilderness. Once again, the LORD heard the Israelites grumbling. He provided manna and quail, morning and night, for the Israelites to eat. They ate and got full, but the people never said 'thank you' to God.

Manna was a special bread that God sent from heaven. God miraculously provided enough food for all the people, and he gave specific instructions about when and how to gather and store the manna. But the people did not listen and obey. And they never thanked God.

The people did not listen to Moses' instructions from God. Those who did not obey God's commands found worms in their manna and their manna melted in the heat and they complained again. They never said "thank you" to God.

God allowed special rules about manna for the Sabbath day because it was a holy day. The day before the Sabbath, the people were to gather twice what they needed because manna would not fall from the sky. But the people did not listen. People still went out on the Sabbath day looking for manna and complained there was not any. The people never said "thank you" to God, they only complained.

Moses and his people ate the manna for the 40 years they were in the desert. The LORD commanded Moses to take some of the manna and put in a pot and keep it where everyone would see it and remember how God performed a miracle and provided food for the people.

THANKSGIVING "THANKFULNESS"

(page 3)

As You Prepare

Before the session, select 2 leaders to role play with you. Explain that one will express thanks while the other will complain about what they were given.

Teaching Tip

Read the tip-in pages "Can KiDs Really Make a Difference" at the back of the KBC Study Bible and be reminded how God feels about young people. Consider that each individual is uniquely made in God's image. You can accept these students just as they are. You can make Beach Club® a place where they belong. You can show them how they contribute to the world around them.

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Guide students to find Numbers 11 (page 156). The Israelites ate manna day after day. The people of Israel remembered all the good things they had to eat as slaves in Egypt. They were sick and tired of manna.

How would you feel if you had to eat the same thing every day, every meal for 40 years? Follow along as we read more about the food the Israelites ate. Ask students to complain about manna in their best whiny voices. The people of Israel complained just like that and they never thanked God.

Moses got very frustrated and told the LORD he felt he could no longer be the leader for all these people and needed God's help. The LORD told Moses to gather 70 elders. Then God put His Spirit on them so that they could help Moses care for the people. The LORD also provided quail again for 30 days, long enough that the Israelites got tired of that too. Still, they never said "thank you" to God.

Application

The Israelites were not <u>thankful</u>. They only complained about the things God provided. This year at Thanksgiving, you can choose to be <u>thankful</u> for the things God has provided for you. You can be especially <u>thankful</u> that God provided Jesus. You can be <u>thankful</u> that God sacrificed His Son for our sins.

Gospel Connection

We can be thankful that God has provided His Word, the Bible, to tell us how to have a relationship with God. We can be thankful that God sent Jesus to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. We can be thankful that God forgives sin and offers salvation as a free gift. How do you receive God's free gift? You must ADMIT you are a sinner and ask God to forgive you. Next, you tell God you BELIEVE that Jesus is His Son and that He paid the debt for your sins and that He is the only way to eternal life. Then CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus by turning away from your sin and choosing to follow Jesus instead of doing things your own way.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Close in prayer.

THANKSGIVING "THANKFULNESS"

(page 4)

Teaching Tip

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Not all students come from a home that honors God or even believes in God. Some of their families will not include God as part of their Thanksgiving holiday activities. You may be the only person sharing the truth of God's Word with them. Remember to thank God for each one who you have the privilege to teach about Jesus.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



THANKSGIVING "THANKFULNESS" (page 5)

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pencils, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- What questions do you have about today's story?
- How do you think God felt about all the Israelites complaints?
- How can you say 'thank you' to God?

Use the Bible



Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles, if they brought one, and highlight today's Memory Link if they have not already done so.

Hang 10 Pages



Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge them to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week for a time of discussion.

Let's look at our Hang 10. Focus on being thankful this week.

Pray

Ask the students to share something for which they are thankful. Encourage the them to say sentence prayers of thanks to God.

Give students an opportunity to write prayer requests on index cards. Take the cards home and pray for their needs this week.

Dear God, please help me to not complain but to remember to thank you for all you provide for us. Thank you for your Son, Jesus, who died for us on the cross. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching Tip

This week spend time thanking God for the opportunities you have to share the truth of God's Word in public schools. Thank Him for every student who has heard the gospel in your club. Pray that the truth will be firmly planted in their hearts. Give thanks for your team of volunteers who are working together to share the gospel message with these boys and girls. Time is short and there is an urgency to share the hope of Jesus with every student and their families. Thank you for being on mission with the hope of Christ in your neighborhood school.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME



THANKSGIVING "THANKFULNESS" (page 6)

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word

Option 1 - TIC-TAC-TOSS

Painter's tape, beanbags, 5 sheets of red and blue paper per surf team

Use painter's tape to create a tic-tac-toe grid on the floor. Label each square with a number, 1-9. Form two teams. Give teams either red or blue squares. Allow teams to take turns tossing the beanbag into a square and answering the review question with the corresponding number. If they answer correctly, that team "wins" the square and can place one of their colored papers in that square. The first team earning three squares in a row wins.

Option 2 - BULL'S EYE

No supplies needed

Gather the surf team in a circle and have them all put their hands in the middle. Ask each student to grab and hold hands with two different students and make sure that no two students are holding hands only with each other. When you say, "Go", they are to start untangling themselves without letting go of the hands. Each time someone gets a hand untangled, call for everyone to freeze and ask that student one of the review questions, then continue untangling until all questions are answered and/or all students are untangled.

BONUS Option 3 - PIN THE FEATHERS ON THE TURKEY

Resource Item (a body of a turkey and paper feathers), tape, blindfolds

Prepare: Copy and cut out the Resource Item. Write one review question answer on each paper feather. Tape the body of the turkey on the wall and make a line on the floor about 6-10 feet away. May play in large group or surf teams.

Give each student a turkey "feather" you prepared. As you call out a question, the student with the answer on his/her feather will put on the blindfold, get turned around once or twice, and attempt to tape the feather onto the turkey.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Name one of the two Bible books where today's story is found. (Exodus, Numbers)
- 2. What is today's Character Word? (thankfulness)
- 3. How did the Israelites respond to God's provision? (they complained)
- 4. What did God send the Israelites to eat in the morning? (manna)
- 5. What showed up in the manna people tried to keep overnight? (worms)
- 6. Who were the people grumbling against? (God)
- 7. On what day did the Lord not send manna? (the Sabbath)
- 8. The Israelites had forgotten how bad things had been for them before they escaped slavery from_____. (Egypt)
- 9. What did the Israelites fail to say to God? (Thank you.)
- 10. What does today's Memory Link say to do? (In everything give thanks)

Teaching Tip

Use games such as "Team Untangle" as a way to restate the gospel. For example: Because of sin our lives can get into a tangled mess, just like the hands were in the game. But through Jesus, God can untangle the mess, forgive our sin, and give us a fresh start. Even with God, we will still have rough times, but we have a rock to lean on and we know that He will help us untangle things.

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18b

