



WEEK
ONE
NOVEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP

K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Always Something
There to Remind Me**
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, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Gratitude—Letting others know
you see how they've helped you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Thank You God" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop*,
"[I Want to Say] Thank You" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Always Grateful
Application Activity: T-H-A-N-K
Memory Verse Activity: Thank You Tag
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



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K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Start by talking to God about a few things you're grateful for. Then, pray that God would help you lead your few whose families are struggling right now. Pray for God to give you wisdom as you help share the message that even in hard times, there's always something to be grateful for.

Pray also for the kids who aren't in hard situations. Ask God to help those kids be thankful for the regular, everyday stuff of life.

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Gratitude—Letting others know
you see how they've helped you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, thankfulness books

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet each kid by name and let them know you're grateful they're there!
- If kids brought offerings, show them where to put them. Be sure to thank them for their gift!
- Sit where kids can gather around you and see the pictures in the book.
- Read your book of choice with thankfulness as a theme. Read with expression and enthusiasm.
- As you read, comment and ask questions to keep the kids involved in the story. Some questions for each book suggested in Getting Ready are:
 - *The Thank You Book*:
 - Why is Gerald trying to get Piggy's attention?
 - Who do you think Piggy is forgetting to thank?
 - *Thankful*:
 - After reading "The children for morning story time," ask, "What are YOU thankful for?"
 - After reading "The pastor is thankful for God's loving Word," say, "I'm thankful for the Bible, too!"
 - *Otis Gives Thanks*:
 - After reading "hard work," ask, "Why do you think Otis is thankful for hard work?" (*He likes it; he's a tractor so he likes to work*)
 - After reading "games," ask, "What games do YOU like to play?"
 - After reading "faith," say, "I'm thankful for God and for Jesus, too!"



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MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen
in the brain and taps into the energy
in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Hula hoops or similar markers,
prepared paper plates or paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a game that's a mash-up of musical chairs and sardines.
- Set the 12 hula hoops in a large circle.
- Number the hoops like a clock with the numbered plates or paper.
- Explain to the kids that you're going to play a silly game like musical chairs except with hula hoops and they'll pretend to be animals.
- Show the kids the hula hoops set out like a clock.
- Count out the numbers 1 through 12 around the clock by saying, "One o' clock, two o' clock, three o' clock," etc.
- Instruct kids to stand around the circle.
- When the game starts, kids walk clockwise around the outside of the hula hoops.
- While they walk around the circle, you'll say a poem.
- In the poem, you will say the name of an animal and an hour of time.
- When you name the animal, the kids should start moving like that animal moves.
- When you name the hour of time, the kids scurry, hop, or move like their animal moves to the number you named while still moving clockwise around the circle.
- Kids should try to stand inside the hoop. If there's not enough room, the kids can touch it with their feet.
- Before you start the game, share the poem with the kids.
Hickory, Dickory, Dock, the [animal's name]
[animal's movement] up the clock.
The clock struck [hour] . . . (pause)
the [animal's name, animal's movement] down.
Hickory dickory dock.
- Play the game.
- Possible animals and movements include: mouse/ran; frog/hopped; bear/lumbered; snake/slithered; snail/slid; caterpillar/crawled.
- As soon as each kid has gotten to the correct hour, finish the rhyme.
- Direct the kids to spread out around the clock for another round of the game.
- Vary the speed that you say the rhyme for more fun!

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Gratitude—Letting others know
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BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! You guys made great mice, bears, and caterpillars! And awesome job finding the right hour on the hula hoop clock! You guys are great with telling time! **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group where we'll hear about something that there's ALWAYS time to do. Let's go learn more."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



1. ALWAYS GRATEFUL

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Always Grateful: Green" and "Always Grateful: Red" Activity Pages, hula hoops, prepared index cards, prepared die, upbeat worship music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a game that's similar to "Four Corners."
- Set the hula hoops in three "corners" of the space you have available and number them 1-3 with an index card in each hoop.
- Put the red and green "Always Grateful" cards face down in the middle of the area between the hoops. (You can set them on a chair or small table to help keep kids from accidentally disturbing them.)
- Instruct kids to walk around while the music plays.
- When the music stops, they should quickly move to one of the three hula hoops where they will practice being grateful.
 - Play the music, guiding kids to roam around the room.
 - Stop the music, leading kids to quickly move to the hula hoop of their choice.
 - Once the kids are in a hula hoop, roll the die.
 - Call out the number and color rolled.
 - Invite a kid from that number's "corner" to choose the an "Always Grateful" card in the color that was rolled on the die.
 - Read the card aloud, or if one of the kids reads well and wants to, invite them to read.
 - Ask the kids in that hoop to name way(s) they could be thankful or show thanks in the situation that was read.
 - If kids are stuck for ideas, ask guiding questions to help them come up with an idea.
 - As kids play, emphasize the truth that **you always have something to be grateful for.**

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**Gratitude—Letting others know
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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"If we take time to think, we can ALWAYS find something to be grateful for, even if we are sad. (Restate some of the scenarios and ideas from the game.) We can say it this way: **you always have something to be grateful for.** Because no matter what happens, we can be thankful that God made us. We can be thankful that God loves us more than we can imagine, and we can be thankful that God will NEVER stop loving us. He will never stop loving . . . (make eye contact with each child as you say their name—with a smile!). So, remember, **you always have something to be grateful for.**"



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an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



*2. T-H-A-N-K

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "T-H-A-N-K Game Board," "T-H-A-N-K Pictures," and "Thank You, God!" the Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Play a game similar to "Bingo" with the kids.
- Give each kid a "T-H-A-N-K Game Board" and a set of "T-H-A-N-K Pictures."
- Invite kids to put the nine pictures wherever they'd like on their game board so there is one picture in each square.
- Give each kid nine "Thank You, God!" cards.
- Explain to the kids that you're going to read about something that could happen in their life.
- They should search their game boards for the picture you describe and put a "Thank You, God!" card over it.
- When they get three "Thank You, God!" cards in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) on their boards, instruct them to shout, "Thank You, God!" Kids might shout, "Thank You, God!" several times—that's what you want!
- Keep playing until you've read every scenario.
- Read one of the scenarios below.
 - Your best friend is moving. With God's help, you choose to be thankful that you can still Facetime with her.
 - Your parents agree to let you have a puppy!
 - You break your arm and miss playing in the big game. With God's help, you choose to be thankful that you can still go to the game and cheer for your friends.
 - Your mom is really sick and can't leave the house. With God's help, you're thankful for all the people who help your family by sending cards and making meals.
 - Your stepdad makes your favorite meal for supper.
 - Your grandparents say that your friend can spend the night.
 - You have a hard time learning addition as quickly as your friends. With God's help, you're thankful that you're learning a little bit more each week.
 - All your friends come to your birthday party!
 - You don't get what you wanted for Christmas, but you're thankful for the presents that you do get.

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Gratitude—Letting others know
you see how they've helped you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The Bible tells us to 'Give thanks no matter what happens.' Giving thanks is being grateful. Sometimes it's easy to be grateful, and sometimes it's harder. Would it be easy or hard for you to be grateful if your mom was sick? Would it be easy or hard for you to be grateful if you got what you wanted for Christmas? (Name a few more of the scenarios that are particularly relevant for your group.)



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(*2. T-H-A-N-K, CONTINUED)

[Make It Personal] *(Share about a kid-appropriate time when you chose to be thankful even though it was difficult to do. Maybe you didn't get chosen to be on a team, you lost something that was special, or you had something sad happen to you. Tell the kids how you felt, how you chose to be grateful, and how God helped you.)*

"When it IS hard to be thankful, we can ask God to help us think about the things that we CAN be grateful for. We can be grateful for our families, our friends, and especially for the fact that God loves us, no matter what! What else can we be grateful for? (food, church, school, the Bible) So remember, **you always have something to be grateful for.**"



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an activity that increases the oxygen
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3. THANK YOU TAG

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids look up and “read” the memory verse using the Bible navigation tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Always Something
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Give Thanks No Matter
What Happens
1 Thessalonians 5:18

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Psalms at the top of the page as you say, “Psalms.” Then, guide children to find the big number 136 (1-3-6) on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 136 for the little 1; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**You always have something
to be grateful for.**

***Finding verses with 1st graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 136. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 1 in chapter 136.*

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

- Explain to the kids that you’re going to play a game of “Thankful Tag.”
- Guide kids to spread out around your environment.
- Choose one kid to be the “tagger” and chase the other kids.
- To make the game safer, instruct kids to walk, tiptoe, or move in slow motion.
- When the “tagger” tags a player, that kid must say, “Thank you” and freeze with their arms spread apart like the letter “T.”
- They are unfrozen only when another player pushes their arms down by their side and the kid calls out, “Thank you!”
- Change the “tagger” throughout the game so that each kid has a chance to tag others.
- If you have a large group, choose two or three kids to be the “taggers”.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Gratitude—Letting others know
you see how they’ve helped you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“God wants us to be thankful no matter what happens, whether it’s something that seems good or something that seems not-so-good. In our game, it was fun to say thank you for the not-so-good thing of being tagged, but EVERY DAY we can say thank You to God for the good and not-so-good things, too.

“When it’s hard to be thankful, we can always thank God because Jesus loves us, and He will always be with us. So remember, ‘Give thanks no matter what



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. THANK YOU TAG, CONTINUED)

happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.' (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV) It's true—**you always have something to be grateful for!**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Explain to the kids that you're going to teach them hand motions to help them remember part of this month's memory verse from the Bible.
- Teach kids motions for the phrase: *His faithful love continues forever.*
His (point to heaven)
faithful love (cross your arms over your chest with your hands in loose fists)
continues forever (stretch your arms and hands straight out in front of you with palms facing each other).

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The Bible tells us to 'give thanks no matter what.' We can give thanks no matter what because God is good, God is faithful, and He loves us more than we can imagine. His love for us will NEVER stop! Let's thank God for Who He is and for His never-ending love."

- Tell the kids that you're going to pray in a special way with words from the Bible.
- You're going to speak a sentence from the Bible out loud. After you read it, the kids will say, "His faithful love continues forever," doing the hand motions they learned.
- Lead kids in a responsive prayer using the verses below: Psalm 136: 1-4, 23, 26 (NIV).

LEADER: "Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good."

KIDS: "His faithful love continues forever." (with motions each time)

LEADER: "Give thanks to the greatest God of all."

KIDS: "His faithful love continues forever."

LEADER: "Give thanks to the most powerful Lord of all."

KIDS: "His faithful love continues forever."

LEADER: "Give thanks to the only one who can do great miracles."

KIDS: "His faithful love continues forever."

LEADER: "Give thanks to the God who remembered us when things were going badly."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(4. PRAY AND DISMISS, CONTINUED)

KIDS: "His faithful love continues forever."

LEADER: "Give thanks to the God of heaven."

KIDS: "His faithful love continues forever."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's **you always have something to be grateful for.**



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PRELUDE

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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a general summary of Social Distancing Recommendations. Please refer to this document so you can plan your Small Group experience with health and safety in mind.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Book or books about thankfulness. Examples: *The Thank You Book* by Mo Willems, *Thankful* by Eileen Spinelli, *Otis Gives Thanks* by Loren Long, or another age-appropriate book about thankfulness. You can check out books or e-books from your library if none are available at your setting.

NOTE: Keep the book(s) to use in Week 2.

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 12 hula hoops (If hoops aren't feasible for your environment, provide fun foam squares, carpet squares, or other large visual markers.)
- 12 paper plates or pieces of paper
- Thick marker
 - Number the plates or paper 1 to 12 with large, bold numbers.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities

and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

1. ALWAYS GRATEFUL

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Always Grateful: Green" Activity Pages onto green cardstock and cut apart; one for each group
- Print the "Always Grateful: Red" Activity Pages onto red cardstock and cut apart; one for each group
- Green and red cardstock
- Three hula hoops
- Three index cards; numbered 1-3
- Permanent marker
- Die
- Red and green dot stickers (If you can't find dot stickers, you can use small pieces of colored paper and tape.)
 - Number three red dot stickers 1-3 and three green dot stickers 1-3 (or the colored paper pieces). Attach (or tape) one sticker to each side of the die
- Upbeat worship music

*2. T-H-A-N-K

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "T-H-A-N-K Game Board" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Print the "T-H-A-N-K Pictures" Activity Page and cut apart; one for each kid
- Print the "Thank You, God" Activity Page on colored paper and cut apart; one for each kid
- Paper
- Colored paper
- Scissors



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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

3. THANK YOU TAG

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles; for kindergarteners, mark Bibles at Psalm 136

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.