



What a Mess

The Leper Who Said “Thanks!”

BIG IDEA: I can say, “Thank you, Jesus!”

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 17:11–19

KEY VERSE: “Give thanks to the LORD, because He is good. His faithful love continues forever.” Psalm 107:1 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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8.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

We were all supposed to arrive in Nairobi on the same flight, but we got separated in the Paris airport. I waited a couple of minutes, but as we were already in danger of missing our flight, I ran, *Home Alone* style, to the gate and trusted they'd meet me there.

I got to the gate just in time for the final boarding call. There was no sign of my companions. I boarded at the very moment the ticketing agent warned that the doors were about to close.

Maybe my travel companions were already on the plane. Maybe they beat me there. Maybe a kind airport employee had picked them up on one of the little luggage carts and taken a shortcut to get them to the gate on time.

I searched the plane. They were nowhere to be found. I heard the door slam and the flight attendants instruct all passengers to take their seats. I was off to Kenya. Alone.

When I arrived in Nairobi, I found out that none of my bags had been checked onto my flight. I did manage to contact my companions, who had gotten on another flight scheduled to arrive the next morning. When everyone finally got in, only four of our twelve bags — most of which were filled with donations for the ministry we were visiting — had made it. We still didn't have the other eight, nor were we entirely certain where they were. It's not an adventure if everything goes as planned.

I've had a lot of adventures. Every adventure — every delayed flight, every lost bag, every obstacle — reminds me that I have far less control over my own life than I believe I do. What I do have control over is how I respond to those obstacles. I can complain about the unsympathetic agent that wouldn't hold the plane, or I can thank God that we all made it safely to Nairobi. I can grumble about the employees that lost our luggage, or I can thank God for providing just enough and recognize that I can get by on a lot less than I think I can. I can let my frustration get the better of me, or I can enjoy the ride with gratitude. Every unpredictable minute of it.

Casey Jordan
GO! Contributor

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LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Telling Personal Stories

There are few communication tools as engaging and powerful as a well-told personal story. At times the GO! curriculum will prompt you to tell a personal story, but feel free to add one anywhere you think it's appropriate. Consider these few things when telling a personal story:

Be sure it's age appropriate. For some of us, our lives before Christ may have been rated PG-13 (or, dare I say, R). Be mindful that the content and details of your story are appropriate for General audiences.

Be sure it's relevant. Your recent conversation with a co-worker about the rumors of a corporate takeover may be the perfect metaphor for sin's infiltration of the world, but your preschool kids can't even begin to grasp that concept. Be sure your story takes place in a world that is familiar to a young audience. Consider telling a story about something that took place when you were a kid. The kids in your ministry will eat that up!

Be sure that it fits. Sometimes we have a story that is so great we can't wait to tell it, even if it doesn't fit. Don't force a story to fit the lesson or vice versa. The perfect story is one that you can tell and the kids will understand the connection with little explanation. If you have to explain the connection too much, you might just want to save it for another time.

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UNIT DESCRIPTION

During “What a Mess,” preschoolers will meet Messy Mabel — a playful pig who just can’t stay out of the mud! Mabel has made a mess all over our Bible story pictures, and it’s up to the kids to help wipe away the mud and reveal what’s underneath. As they clean up Mabel’s mess, kids will learn that no mess is too big for Jesus to wipe away.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Put a pig puppet or plush toy in the storytelling area. Alternatively, you can print the “Messy Mabel” pig picture on one 8½” x 11” cardstock paper. (See Resource Folder.)
- Print the “Bible Story Pictures and Mud Covers” on 8½” x 11” cardstock. (See Resource Folder.) Place one Mud Cover over the top of each Story Picture. Using Scotch tape, tape the Picture Cover and Story Picture together along the left side as if you are binding a book. Cut along the dotted lines on each of the Mud Covers. (Do NOT cut the Story Picture below it.) When finished, you should be able to fold each of the four strips of the Mud Cover back, thus revealing the Story Picture a little bit at a time. There are 4 story pictures in all:
 - Number 10
 - Green light
 - Happy face
 - Question mark
- Create a “Super Duper Bible Box” and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the “Super Duper Bible Box.”
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher’s Story Time Rules signs and Topher’s Big Idea signs on 8½” x 11” cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See “Getting Started” in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

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★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello, everybody! I'm so happy to see you all today! We're going to have so much fun! In just a little bit, we're going to meet a new friend named Messy Mabel. She's a messy little pig who loves playing in the mud. Mabel is going to help us learn a Bible story.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** It's true! **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** In fact, that's what our memory verse from the Bible tells us. Let me teach it to you.

"Give thanks *(put hands in prayer position)*
to the LORD *(point up),*
because He is good *(two thumbs up).*
His faithful Love *(put hands over heart)*
Continues forever." *(Spread hands out)*
Psalm 107:1 *(extend hands like you're holding a book).*

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat memory verse with children two or three times.)*

2s & 3s - STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

(Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

Pre-K & K - Bible Trivia

- Who Wrote the book of Matthew? (Matthew)
- Who wrote the book of Mark? (Mark)
- Who wrote the book of Luke? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of John? (John)
- Who wrote the book of Acts? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of Romans? (Paul)
- The Bible is split into two parts. What are they called? (The Old & New Testament)
- What is the difference? (Jesus was born in the New Testament)

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WHAT A MESS INTRO

Say: I think it's time for you to meet Messy Mabel. *(Reveal your Mabel puppet or plush toy, or hold up the picture of Mabel the Pig.)* This is Mabel — she's Topher the Gopher's friend. Can you wave and say, "Hi Mabel!" *(Children wave and say hi.)* Mabel's a messy little pig who loves playing in the mud. There's just one problem — Mabel splashed mud all over our Bible story pictures. That's okay, though! We can wipe the mud off of the pictures so we can see what it is.

Say: If you're ready to get started, wiggle your fingers in the air. *(Children wiggle fingers in the air.)* Great! First, let's get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. *(Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.)* I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

(Repeat the words with the children, then turn on the Super Duper Bible Box light so that the Bible is revealed. Optional: Play the Bible Box sound effect when you turn the light on.)

Slide: Show the "The Leper Who Said Thanks" slide

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BIG BIBLE STORY — THE LEPER WHO SAID THANKS

Each section of the story has a video that has mud splatter on it – as it fades away, it will reveal the story.

Say: One day, Jesus was walking on His way to a town. Let's clean the mud off of our first picture and see what happened while Jesus was walking. *(Video 1 - 10.)*

Say: As Jesus walked, ten men stood far away and called out to Him. The ten men were very sick with something called leprosy. Leprosy made their skin hurt and look bad, and people stayed far away from them so they wouldn't get sick too. The ten men shouted, "Jesus! Help us!" Let's clean the mud off another picture to see what Jesus did. *(Video 2 – Green Stop light.)* It's a green stop light. That means "go."

Say: Jesus saw them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." The men listened to Jesus and started walking to the priests. And guess what? As they walked, they were healed! Their skin got better, and the sickness was gone! Let's clean up another picture to see what happened next. *(Video 3 – Happy Face)*

Say: One of the men stopped walking. He turned around and came back to Jesus. He was so happy that Jesus had healed him! He praised God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and said, "Thank you!" Let's clean the mud off one more picture to see what Jesus said. *(Video 4 – Question Mark)*

Say: Jesus asked the man a question. He said, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Only this one came back to say thank you — and he's not even from around here!" Then Jesus told the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has made you well."

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MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song
Video: (Optional) Play “Extra Time with Topher” *(requires Premium subscription)*

Say: In our story for today, Jesus healed ten men with leprosy, but only one of them came back to say “thank you!” We should all be like the one leper who said “thanks!” Jesus hasn’t healed any of us from leprosy, but there are lots of reasons we can tell Him “thank you.”

Say: Hey — I have an idea! When I tell you to, let’s all shout, “Thank you, Jesus!” *(When saying “Thank you, Jesus!” use the hand motions from the Bible verse — put hands in prayer position, then point up.)*

- For our mommies and daddies, let’s say, *(prompt children)* “Thank you, Jesus!”
- For the food that we eat, let’s say, *(prompt children)* “Thank you, Jesus!”
- For the house that we live in, let’s say, *(prompt children)* “Thank you, Jesus!”
- For the love that He shows us, let’s say, *(prompt children)* “Thank you, Jesus!”
- For dying on the cross, let’s say, *(prompt children)* “Thank you, Jesus!”
- For taking away our sins, let’s say, *(prompt children)* “Thank you, Jesus!”

Say: Those are wonderful words that we can tell to our wonderful Savior! Any time Jesus does something nice for us, we can be like the leper who said “thanks!” **We can say, “Thank you, Jesus!”**

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TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!"** On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to three and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: I can say, "Thank you, Jesus!" (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and tell Jesus how thankful we are. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

**Dear Jesus,
You died on a cross for me
And took away my sins.
Thank You for loving me so, so much.
I love You too, Jesus!
Amen.**