

4th-5th Grade.

BIG IDEA:

Gratitude

BOTTOM LINE:

You always have something to be thankful for.

BIBLE STORY:

Give thanks all the time.
— 1 Thessalonians 5:18

After Large Group

Bible Story and Bottom Line Review

SUPPLIES:

- Bible Story and Bottom Line Review Activity Pages - 1 set per group
- Scissors

HOW-TO:

1. Cut out the Activity Page cards and group them into three piles based on the color of the card.
2. Each pile is a different category: Locations, Events, and Wild Cards.
3. Set the Location and Event cards on the ground, and hold onto the Wild Cards.
4. One at a time, have kids choose a Location and an Event card.
5. Help them read the cards out loud in a MadLibs-style, "[Kid's name] is [location] [event] when..." For example, "John is AT THE POOL DOING A SILLY DANCE when..."
6. Lastly, have the kid pull a Wild Card. Read it out loud to complete the MadLib. ("John is AT THE POOL DOING A SILLY DANCE when A SWARM OF MOSQUITOES APPEARS!")
7. Have the kids hold onto the Wild Cards, but return the Location and Event cards to the piles to be mixed in and reused.
8. After all the kids have gone, read the "SAY THIS" below.

SAY THIS:

We created some really silly situations where things went wrong today! In real life, when things get hard and things go wrong, it can be difficult to feel thankful. However, no matter the situation, we can still choose to be thankful because: God is with us. God loves us. God takes care of us. These things are true *even in hard times*. Remember, **[Bottom Line] You always have something to be thankful for.** Let's say that together: **[Bottom Line] You always have something to be thankful for!**

BOTTOM LINE REVIEW

Use these questions to guide the kids on how to apply the Bottom Line: **You always have something to be thankful for.** Engage everyone and give them a chance to share and participate in the discussion.

LEVEL UP THE DISCUSSION:

Use the questions below to encourage discussion and group participation.

1. Use a "Think, Pair, Share" discussion technique for the questions below.
2. Have kids pair up.
3. Read each question below.
4. With each question, have the pair THINK together about their answer and then SHARE with the group.

SAY THIS

Let's review the message we just heard in Large Group and how we can apply it to our lives.

1. What did our verse from today tell us to do in ALL circumstances? (Let kids respond.) **To give thanks—no matter what!**
2. If you have a bad day at school, what are some things you can still thank God for? (Let kids respond.)
3. When you don't get what you want, how can you choose gratitude instead of complaining? (Let kids respond.)
4. You studied really hard for a test but got a lower grade than you hoped for. What could you still thank God for? (Let kids respond.)
5. Your family has to cancel a fun trip. How could you choose gratitude instead of complaining? (Let kids respond.)
6. Your best friend is absent from school and you feel lonely. What could you still be thankful for? (Let kids respond.)
7. How can you thank God even when you are scared or worried? (Let kids respond.)
8. Someone in your class hurts your feelings. How can we choose gratitude even in this moment? (Let kids respond.)

We may not have the BEST day every day, but we can always find reasons to thank God because he loves us, cares for us, and will take care of us. Sometimes we need a reminder to be thankful in ALL circumstances. So let's pray and ask God to remind us that we always have something to be thankful for.

PRAYER

Huddle up with your group and lead them in prayer.

Dear God,

We know that you love us. We know that you are with us. And we know that you will take care of us. So please help us remember to be thankful all the time, no matter what. We love you. Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever. (1 Chronicles 16:34)

VERSE ACTIVITY

- Bibles
- Solo® cups - 1 per kid
- Verse Cling Activity Page - 1 per group

SAY THIS

LEARN IT! (Find the verse and understand what it means.)

The Bible is full of God's wisdom. Let's look up our verse to learn what God says about being thankful. (Pass out Bibles and look up the verse. Demonstrate how to locate the Table of Contents to find the correct book, and explain how to find the verse based on the reference.) Read the verse together as a group.

LOCK IT! (Memorize the verse to lock it in our hearts.)

It's important to lock the verse in our hearts. One way we do that is with this activity.

1. Scan the QR code to review the cup motions to learn the verse.
2. Pass out one cup per kid.
3. Rewatch the video, pausing it frequently to learn the motions.
4. See if your group can learn the entire verse using the cup and motions.
5. Repeat as time allows.



LIVE IT! (Apply the verse to the way we live every day.)

Now that we've learned the verse and locked it in, we need to live it out. Living out the verse is knowing what the verse means and applying it to the way we live every day.

God is so good to us, no matter what we're going through. How amazing is that? Plus, God's love never stops, especially when things are hard—that's what "endures" means. If we know he loves us, then we can trust him to do what's best for us and we can be thankful... no matter what. We can be thankful because not only is God good, but his love for us never stops!