

GRATITUDE

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

ELEMENTARY

Bible Story: Ungrateful Israelites - Numbers 11

2nd-3rd Grade

Bottom Line: Be thankful for what you have.

November 1, 2026

BEFORE LARGE GROUP

Early Arriver Idea

SUPPLIES:

- Early Arriver (Activity Page) - 1 per kid
- Play-Doh® - 1 container per kid

HOW-TO:

1. Give each kid an Activity Page and a container of Play-Doh®.
2. Have them use their Play-Doh® to form each letter by placing it on top of the matching letters on the Activity Page.
3. As they're working, ask them some **"HIGH FIVE"** questions below.

HIGH FIVE (Optional Conversation Starters):

1. What's the most delicious thing you've eaten this week?
2. What's the most disgusting food you've ever eaten?
3. If you could only have one sweet treat for the rest of your life, what would it be?
4. If you could choose one food to never have to eat again, what would it be?
5. Would you rather eat broccoli-and-cheese cake or French-onion-dip ice cream?

Opening Activity

SUPPLIES:

- **FOR LARGE GROUP:** Small potatoes - 2 per group

HOW-TO:

1. Divide the kids into two teams and line them up next to each other.
2. Have the first kid in each line step forward to "face off" in a silly competition.
3. Dramatically read a category from the list below. (The last phrase makes the game silly!)
4. Determine the winner by completing the task. Lift the winner's arm up like a boxing champion!
5. Repeat until all the kids have faced off. The team with the most winning kids wins!

CATEGORIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| • The tallest... thumb. | • The speediest... to balance a marker upright on their palm. |
| • The fastest... crab walker. | • The farthest... stretcher. |
| • The highest... jumper. | • The quickest... to take off their shoes. |
| • The longest... stare in a staring contest. | • The longest... to balance on one foot and rub their belly at the same time. |
| • The fastest... alphabet-song singer. | |

REMEMBER TO BRING POTATOES AS YOU HEAD TO LARGE GROUP >>>

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AFTER LARGE GROUP

Bible Story and Bottom Line Review

SUPPLIES:

- Bottom Line Review (Activity Page) - 1 per 2 kids
- Scissors - 1 pair per group
- Markers or pens

HOW-TO:

1. Discuss the Bible Story using "Say This" below.
2. Cut each Activity Page on the dotted line and give one to each kid.
3. Fill in the chart together as you discuss what skills and talents each kid is grateful to have.
4. Encourage the kids to use the Activity Page every day this week to help them remember to
[Bottom Line] Be thankful for what you have.

SAY THIS:

This month, we're learning all about gratitude. What's gratitude? (A thankful attitude.)

Today in Large Group, we heard all about the Israelites, who really struggled with being grateful. Don't we all sometimes? Remember, God had just delivered them out of Egypt where they were slaves. Then as they wandered around the desert, God gave them food. He literally made bread fall from the SKY to feed them! And not just once, but EVERY DAY he fed them. But how did the Israelites respond? (Let kids respond.) They complained! They wanted different, more exciting food. They even wished to be slaves back in Egypt.

Does it cross your mind to be thankful... even when you DON'T like something?

Or have you ever really liked some new thing you have... until you see the new and improved thing your friend has?

Does it make it hard to be thankful for what you have when you see other people's things? (Share a personal experience.)

We can use this gratitude chart (demonstrate chart) anytime this week when we are starting to feel ungrateful. The goal is to be thankful for something in the category listed each day! What's something that you can do—a skill or talent that you have—that you can be thankful for? (Have the kids fill in the blanks in each category.)

We can learn a lot from the Israelites. They really struggled not to get caught up in what they didn't have. If we're not careful, we can have that same ungrateful attitude about the things God has given us. This week when you are feeling ungrateful, I want you to practice naming three things you are grateful for just like we did in Large Group. (Demonstrate.) This chart can be a great way for you to have

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a list of things to be grateful for. So remember this week to **[Bottom Line] Be thankful for what you have.**



**Today we learned that no matter what, you can
[Bottom Line] Be thankful for what you have.**



**If you haven't had a chance to pray with your small group yet,
take the time now.**

Prayer

Be sensitive to any visitor during this activity, and don't ask them to pray out loud if they're not comfortable.

SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

HOW-TO:

1. Gather the kids together and lead them through the following prayer.

SAY THIS:

Dear God,

Thank you so much for giving us our families and friends. Thank you for our homes and schools. Most of all, thank you for loving us forever. When we start to feel ungrateful, help us remember to be thankful for what we have. We love you. Amen.

Verse Activity

SUPPLIES:

- Bibles - 1 per 2 kids
- Solo® cups - 1 per kid
- Verse Cling Activity Page - 1 per group

HOW-TO:

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.

1. Divide the kids into pairs and give them each a Bible. Explain that the Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. Demonstrate how to find the verse.
2. Have them find the book of 1 Chronicles under the Old Testament heading in the Table of Contents.

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3. Have them find chapter 16 (big number), verse 34 (little number).
4. Read the verse aloud and break it down using "Say This" on the next page.

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.



SAY THIS:

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!

You'll get a verse cling like this (hold up Verse Activity Page) when you leave. Use a device to scan the QR code, then use any cup you have at your house to practice this verse.