

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: Parable of the Vineyard Workers (Matthew 20:1-15)

2nd-3rd Grade

Bottom Line: Don't let a bad attitude spoil your gratitude.

November 29, 2026

BEFORE LARGE GROUP

Early Arriver Idea

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- Early Arriver (Activity Page) - 1 per kid
- Pens or markers

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Give each kid an Activity Page and have them spot the differences between the pictures.
2. As they're searching, ask them some **"HIGH FIVE"** questions below.

HIGH FIVE (Optional Conversation Starters):

1. What was the best part of your week?
2. What's your favorite game to play with your family?
3. What's a tradition you do together as a family during November?
4. What were you the most thankful for this weekend?
5. What are you looking forward to this week?

Opening Activity

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Have the kids stand in a circle for a game of "Categories."
2. Teach them the following sequence: pat, pat (patting legs), clap, pat, pat, clap. Keep repeating it.
3. You'll say a category. On the last clap of the sequence, a kid says something in that category.
(e.g., you say "colors." They pat, pat, clap, pat, pat, "blue.")
4. Do the sequence again. On the last clap, the kid to their left says something else in that category.
5. Each kid must come up with a different answer than one previously said. If a kid can't think of something on their turn, they're out. Each time a kid is eliminated, change the category.

CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| • Things you eat for dinner | • Restaurants | • Desserts |
| • Names of football teams | • Favorite Thanksgiving foods | • Candies |
| • Favorite things about fall | • Fruits | |

HEAD TO LARGE GROUP > > >

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AFTER LARGE GROUP

Bible Story Review

< SUPPLIES:

- Marker - 1 per group

HOW-TO:

1. Divide the group into two teams for a "Family Feud" game. Place a marker (as a buzzer) on the floor.
2. A kid from each team will sit or kneel on either side of the marker. They'll go head-to-head as you ask a question below about today's Bible Story.
3. The first kid who knows the answer will grab the marker and answer. They can't consult teammates!
4. If they answer correctly, they get a point for their team. If they're wrong, the other team can "steal" the point by consulting with their teammates to answer.
5. Let the kids take turns answering the remaining questions. The team with the most points wins!

SAY THIS:

QUESTIONS

1. Who were the characters in the story we heard today? **(The vineyard owner and workers)**
2. True or false? The vineyard owner hired all the workers at the same time. **(False)**
3. The first workers who were hired agreed to work for how much money? **(One coin)**
4. True or false? All of the workers worked for the same amount of time. **(False)**
5. True or false? At the end of the day, all the workers were paid according to how long they worked. **(False. All were paid the same.)**
6. When the workers who'd only worked one hour got paid one coin, what did the other workers expect? **(They expected to be paid more than one coin.)**
7. What did the workers who worked longer say when they got paid the same? **(They complained and thought it was unfair.)**
8. How'd the owner who hired all the workers react to the complaining workers? What did he say? **(He asked if they got what they agreed to work for—one coin. He said he had the right to pay them whatever he thought was fair because it was his money and they worked for him.)**

Bottom Line Review

< SUPPLIES:

- Bottom Line Review (Activity Page) - 1 per group
- White paper - 2 sheets per group
- Marker - 1 per group
- Painter's tape - 1 roll per group

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≡ HOW-TO:

1. Write a large "A" on one sheet of paper and a large "B" on the other. Tape the pages to the floor on opposite sides of your small group area.
2. Read the scenarios from the Activity Page out loud and tell the kids to jump to the choice that represents how they'd REALLY respond (not how they think they should respond).

DISCUSSION

- If you jumped to more A's, you often let your bad attitude spoil your gratitude. Learn how you can be more thankful when things don't go your way so you don't spoil your gratitude.
- If you jumped to more B's, you're doing pretty well with not letting a bad attitude spoil your gratitude. However, no one gets this right all the time, so keep focusing on having a thankful attitude.
- How'd you feel about that quiz?
- Did you answer those questions about who you WANT to be, who you THINK you should be, or how you really, really feel?

🗨 SAY THIS:

This week, when you feel a bad attitude starting to creep in, stop and think about what you have to be grateful for in that situation. Draw a smiley face on your leg, with your finger, as you think about how to turn your attitude around. You can't control what happens, but you can always control how you respond. Remember, **[Bottom Line] Don't let a bad attitude spoil your gratitude.**

Today we learned that being thankful is a choice.
[Bottom Line] Don't let a bad attitude spoil your gratitude.



**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. Have the kids huddle up and have them repeat the following prayer after you.

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SAY THIS:

Dear God,
Thank you for loving us. **(repeat)**
Help us not let a bad attitude **(repeat)**
spoil our gratitude. **(repeat)**
We love you so much. **(repeat)**
Amen.

Verse Activity

SUPPLIES:

- Bibles - 1 per 2 kids
- Yellow cup - 1 per group
- Red cups - 1 per kid

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.
3. Have them find chapter 16 (big number), verse 34 (little number).
4. Read the verse aloud.

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 our cup game this month.

1. Pass out the red cups to the kids while you keep the yellow cup.
2. Scan the QR code. Watch the video to review the cup game verse motions with the kids.
3. Say the verse as you play the game, passing cups to the right after each repetition of the verse.
4. Point out your yellow cup, and encourage them to keep repeating the verse until your yellow cup travels all the way around the circle and back to you.



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.

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God is so good to us, no matter what we're going through. How amazing is that? If we didn't know that he's good and trustworthy, it would be harder to be thankful when things are hard. 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!

Let's say our verse together one last time! "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" 1 Chronicles 16:34.