Today's Suggested Schedule— November 8, 2026

Bible Story: Always Something to Be Grateful For • Habakkuk 3:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (supporting: 2 Corinthians 4:17)
Bottom Line: I can thank God no matter what.
Monthly Memory Verse: *Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows.* • James 1:17 NIrV

Check out our Pinterest page here https://bit.ly/447HSZi for a visual on some of the activities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SMALL GROUP (20 minutes)
SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction
Early Arriver /
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (30-35 minutes)
WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God
STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways
- Introduce Monthly Theme Poster
- Review Monthly Memory Verse Poster
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster
- Teaching (Video)
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster

SMALL GROUP (25-30 minutes)
GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect
Reinforcement Activity
Prayer Journal

TAKE HOME
Devotional Page

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Opening / Early Arriver Activity

What You Need:
- Offering container
- Dice

What You Do:
During the Activity:
- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct each child to pick a "knock-out number" between one and six for themselves.
- The kids will sit in a circle and roll their die at the same time.
- If they roll their own "knock-out number," then they're out of the game and have to stand.
- Keep playing until there is one kid sitting.
- Play again if time allows. Invite kids to change their "knock out number" if they want to and play again.

What You Say:
"Sometimes games do not go the way we want, and life can feel that way too. Today, we'll hear from the Bible about Habakkuk, who learned that even when everything felt hard, he could still be glad because of what God had done. We'll also learn that because of Jesus, **[Bottom Line] I can thank God no matter what.** Let's go hear more!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:
- *A kid can monitor everyone's number and help to referee the game.*

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LARGE GROUP

What You Need: TV, Pre-Loaded Video Content

What You Do:

1. Introduce/Remind kids about the
a. Monthly Theme
b. Monthly Memory Verse
c. Today's Bottom Line
2. Play Worship Songs
3. Allow kids to grab a snack
4. Play Teaching Video
5. Review Today's Bottom Line

Lead your group to the Small Group activity.

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1. Thankful in Everything

What You Need:

- [ ] "Thankful for Everything" Activity Page
- [ ] Paper
- [ ] Light colored construction paper
- [ ] Wall tape
- [ ] Permanent marker
- [ ] Scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Thankful for Everything" Activity Page on paper and cut, one set per Small Group.
- On one piece of construction paper, write "Good Day."
- On another piece of construction paper, write "Tough Day."
- Tape the signs on opposite sides of the room.

During the Activity:

- Say: "In today's Bible Story, we learned about a prophet named Habakkuk. Habakkuk lived during a really hard time. God's people were not obeying Him, enemies were nearby, and Habakkuk wrote about what it would be like if the fig trees did not grow, the vines did not have grapes, the fields did not have food, and there were no sheep or cattle. That would have been a very tough day. But Habakkuk said: '*I will still be glad because of what the Lord has done. God my Savior fills me with joy*' (Habakkuk 3:18 NIrV). He remembered that God had helped His people before, and he trusted God even when things looked hard. We are going to play a game that helps us practice what Habakkuk did. You will choose a card, listen to the scenario, and decide if it sounds like a good day or a tough day. Then we will practice finding one way to thank God in that situation."

- Invite kids to line up single file.
- Explain how to play the game:
  - Ask the first kid to select a scenario card and read it out loud.
  - Ask them to imagine that the scenario on their card is their day.
  - Then ask that kid to decide if they consider it a good day or a tough day and run to the corresponding side of the room.
  - Ask them how they would thank God in this situation.
  - Repeat with the next kid until all the kids have a turn.

What You Say:

"Great job thinking through those good days and tough days! Some of those scenarios were easy to be thankful for, and some were harder. That reminds us of Habakkuk. Habakkuk did not thank God because everything around him was easy. He thanked God because he remembered what God had done and trusted that God was still good.

"We can do that too. God made us and loves us. He sent His Son, Jesus, so we can live with Him forever. It's OK if we do not feel thankful right away. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us notice the good things God has given us and thank Him. When we thank God during trouble, we are choosing to trust Him. Let's remember: **[Bottom Line] I can thank God no matter what.**"

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2. Gift Box Thanks

Live for God | Application Activity
Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- ☐ “Gift Box Thanks” Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Posterboard
- ☐ Chisel-tip permanent marker
- ☐ Wall tape
- ☐ Scissors

What You Do:
Before the Activity:

- Print “Gift Box Thanks” Activity Page on cardstock and cut, two cutouts per kid.
- On the piece of posterboard, write in large block letters: “Hard Things.”
- Tape the posterboard sign to a wall in your activity area.

During the Activity:

- Discuss examples of hard things kids might face, such as school struggles, friendship problems, disappointment, or learning something new. If kids want to share a personal example, they are welcome to.
- Write examples on the “Hard Things” sign.
- Give each kid two cutouts and a pencil.
- Ask kids to write or draw what they can be thankful for even when they are dealing with hard things.

What You Say:
“Think about some things that might feel hard in your life right now. Is it something with school, learning a new sport, friendships or something else? If you are experiencing something hard or sad or frustrating, know that God sees you and cares about you so deeply. God doesn’t want you to pretend the hard thing isn’t happening. God knows that you will be able to see Him more clearly and trust Him more when you choose to thank Him for the things in your life that are good. This week, remind yourself that ***[Bottom Line]*** **I can thank God no matter what.”**

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3. Echo and Repeat
Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity
Made to Play

What You Need:
- Bibles

What You Do:
During the Activity:
- Give every kid a Bible, and direct them to look up James 1:17.
- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

  Finding verses for 2nd-3rd 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 the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.*

- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Read parts of the verse in different voices or doing different actions like standing on one foot, saying it while twirling, etc., and ask kids to echo and repeat what and how you said it.
- Repeat several times, changing it up each time.

What You Say:
"That was a fun way to practice saying our Memory Verse. Let's say the verse together in a regular voice. '*Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows*' (James 1:17 NIrV).

"This verse reminds us that every good gift comes from God. It also reminds us that God does not change. Our days can change. Our plans can change. The things around us can change. But God is always good, always loving, and always with us.

"That means even when things are hard, we can remember who God is and what He has given us. Because every good gift comes from Him, **[Bottom Line] I can thank God no matter what.**"

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4. Pray and Dismiss
Pray to God | Prayer Activity
Made to Reflect

What You Need:
- “Gift Note Card” Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors

What You Do:
Before the Activity:
- Print “Gift Note Card” Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one cutout per kid.

During the Activity:
- Instruct the kids to write a note to themselves that even when things are hard, they can thank God for His good gifts.
- Ask kids to color their card.
- Remind them to read this gift note every day this week.

What You Say:
“Let’s pray and ask God to help us remember to thank Him even when things are hard! When you show gratitude, even while you are experiencing trouble, it means you are choosing to trust God. This trust, even when things don’t look good, is very precious to Him.”

Prayer:
“Dear God, we are so grateful that we can thank You no matter what the circumstances are. We can thank You even when we don’t feel thankful, because You have already done so much for us. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to rescue each one of us. We love You, and we pray all these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

*As adults arrive to pick up, remind the kids that **[Bottom Line]*** **I can thank God no matter what.**

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