

Keep Psalm and Be Thankful

Bible: Keep Psalm and Be Thankful (A psalm of thanksgiving) • *Psalm 100:1-5*

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV

Life App: Gratitude—letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

Thanksgiving Silly Story

- “Thanksgiving Silly Story” Activity Page; 1 for every 2 kids
- Pencils

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Letter Layout

- Bibles
- A large poster or printout with the memory verse written on it

10:15

Celebration Launchers

- “Celebration Launcher Instructions” Activity Page; 3 for each small group
- Brightly colored paper
- Toilet paper tubes; 1 for each kid
- Decorative foam pieces, stickers, etc.
- Colored pencils or crayons
- 12-inch balloons; 1 for each kid
- Pens; 1 for each kid
- Duct or masking tape
- Scissors
- Zip-top baggies; 1 for each kid

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

Keep Psalm and Be Thankful

Bible: Keep Psalm and Be Thankful (A psalm of thanksgiving) • *Psalm 100:1-5*

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV

Life App: Gratitude—letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for what He has done already in the lives of your few. Take a few moments to celebrate the relationships God has given your group and thank God for the opportunity to lead them.

All Service Times

Thanksgiving Silly Story

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Thanksgiving Silly Story” Activity Pages, pens

What You Do:

- Explain to kids that they’re going to write a fill-in-the-blank silly story that will end in a pretty funny way.
- Pair kids up. Give each pair a pencil and an Activity Page.
- Encourage the pair to assign one partner to ask questions and the other to answer them. (They can switch roles halfway through, if they choose.)
- The kid who asks the questions can write in the blanks to complete the story.
- Make sure kids understand that the more zany/creative/silly/funny their answers are, the better the final story will be.
- When they finish, allow each pair to share their story with the group.

What You Say:

“Wow! You have created some super funny stories you ended up with! It’s fun to talk about all of our favorite things isn’t it? **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and hear what the Bible has to say about our favorite things.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Keep Psalm and Be Thankful

Bible: Keep Psalm and Be Thankful (A psalm of thanksgiving) • *Psalm 100:1-5*

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV

Life App: Gratitude—letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- 3 table top photo easels
- Table

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “Happy Day”
- “Unshakable”
- “Your Love Never Fails”

Keep Psalm and Be Thankful

Bible: Keep Psalm and Be Thankful (A psalm of thanksgiving) • *Psalm 100:1-5*

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV

Life App: Gratitude—letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host is on stage welcoming kids as they enter.

HOST: “Hey, hey, friends! My name is [Host’s name] and I am SO glad that you’re hanging out with us today! I want to say WELCOME The Hideout, the place where we have the most FUN time with the most FUN people! If you like having fun, raise one arm like this! (*Raise your right arm.*) Then raise your other arm like this! (*Raise your left arm.*) And give yourself a high-five and say, ‘Let the fun begin!’”

HOST and KIDS: (*Give yourself a high-five*) “Let the fun begin!”

HOST: “I like the way you guys think! Having fun is the best! And today we start talking about something that I happen to think is super-dee-dooper WHOPPER-level fun. And it all has to do with a big word called gratitude. Can you say that with me?”

HOST and KIDS: “Gratitude.”

HOST: “Gratitude, that’s right! Who thinks they know what that word means? Raise your hand. (*Look around the room.*) You do?! All right, let’s find out together!

CG: *Gratitude Slide*

“Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you. Why don’t we all read that together?”

HOST AND KIDS: “Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.”

HOST: “In other words, gratitude means you say or show others that you are thankful. Like when your mom packs your favorite lunch and you give her a hug on your way out the door or when your friend lets you borrow a pencil at school and you give them a fist bump and say thanks, THAT’S gratitude. There are like a bajillion different ways to express gratitude! Gratitude IS fun. And you know what else is fun? Celebrations. Celebrating someone is a super easy way to show gratitude.

SFX: Upbeat game music

“Uh-oh! You know what that music means? llllllll’s game time! All month long we’re playing a game called (*snap fingers*) ‘OH, SNAP!’ Can you say that with me?”

HOST and KIDS: (*Snap fingers.*) “OH, SNAP!”

HOST: “And today’s (*snap*) ‘OH, SNAP’ challenge is all about celebrations. Here’s how it works. A photograph will appear on the screen. However, it won’t be the entire photo, just PART of a photo that reveals some sort of party or celebration. If you think you know what is being celebrated in the picture, raise your hand. When I call on you, you can make a guess. Then I’ll show you the entire picture and we’ll see if you were right.

“Now, just to make this a little more interesting, we’re going to play girls versus boys! If you answer correctly, you earn one point for your team. But if you answer incorrectly, the other team gets the point. Everyone understand?”

“Are you ready to play, ‘OH, SNAP’? (*Get response.*) Awesome! Let’s do it!

CG: Game Slide 1a

“Here’s image one! Raise your hand if you think you know what it is!

Call on a child.

“Okay! Let’s see if you figured it out!

CG: Game Slide 1b

“Awesome! Your team gets the point! [Oh no! Looks like the other team gets the point.] Either way, that looks like a SUPER fun celebration! Who loves a good birthday party?! (*Get response.*) Yeah me too! Birthdays are a great thing to celebrate! Let’s go to the next slide!

Continue in this pattern for the rest of the slides while commenting on the type of celebration. Alternate between girls and boys. Keep track of the score.

“We have a winner! The [boys’/girls’] team earned the most points during today’s ‘OH SNAP!’ challenge! That means they can exit to Small Group first! Let’s all give a huge round of applause to everyone who played!

Cheer and clap.

“All right, everybody! I told you we’d have fun today, and it’s not over yet! Some of the best things we can celebrate are all the things our AWESOME God has done for us! I bet [Historyteller’s Name] has a great Truth about Gratitude for us today. Come on up here [Historyteller’s Name]!”

Historyteller enters as Host exits.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hey, everybody! Let’s practice some gratitude right now. Everyone look at their neighbor and say, ‘Hey, thanks for being here!’”

HISTORYTELLER and KIDS: “Hey, thanks for being here.”

HISTORYTELLER: “See? Gratitude is cool! We have so many times throughout the year set aside to celebrate people and events that happen. But you know what? We don’t need a special event or a holiday to show gratitude. Gratitude is something we can show whenever we see an opportunity. Sometimes we just need to refocus a bit in order to find them. One of the best ways we can refocus is through reading God’s Word—the Bible! The Bible talks all about who and what we should celebrate! How about we take a look now and see where we should start looking?”

“You may already know this, but the Bible isn’t just one book. It’s a collection of books and letters and poems and stories. Many these books were written by one person, like the letters that one person wrote to a group of people. But then you have the book of Psalms. Psalms is almost right in the middle of the Bible. It’s a collection of poems—many of which were set to music—written by many different people. Sometimes the psalms include the name of the person who wrote them, but other times they don’t, and we don’t know who wrote it, like Psalm 100. Psalm 100 is known as a psalm of praise or thanksgiving. Check it out!

Open your Bible and read Psalm 100:1-5.

“Shout for joy to the LORD, everyone on earth. Worship the LORD with gladness. Come to him with songs of joy. Know that the LORD is God. He made us, and we belong to him. We are his people. We are the sheep belonging to his flock. Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple. Give praise as you enter its courtyards. Give thanks to him and praise his name. The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever. It will last for all time to come, (NIRV).

“Well, I think the person who wrote Psalm 100 has something in mind for us, huh? Give thanks to God! I love that at the beginning, the psalm writer says: *Shout for joy to the LORD, everyone on earth.*

“Shout for joy! That’s something we can do right now. Let’s try it. On the count of three, everyone shout, ‘Thank You, God!’ One, two, three!”

LEADER and KIDS: “THANK YOU, GOD!”

LEADER: “Awesome! Now, let’s think about something for a moment. Saying thank you to God is great, but we should also know WHY we’re saying thank you in the first place, right? Let’s take the next few minutes to think about some of the things God has done.

Move toward the pictures and stand to the side of them.

GOD CREATED

LEADER: “Take a look at the first part of Psalm 100:3 (*read from the Bible*): *Know that the LORD is God. He made us, and we belong to him.*

“The first thing God did was create. Can someone turn over this first image?”

Choose a volunteer to flip the birthday cake photo around, and then send the volunteer back to his seat.

“In Genesis, we read that God made the world. What are some of the things God made in the world? We talked about a few of these last month.

Take ideas from the kids as time allows.

“Yes! God made all of those things and so much more, right? God made stars and moons and plants and seagulls and dolphins and alligators and zebras. God made people. And, of course, God made you, and God made me. God made everything in the world, and not just in our little planet either.

“Sometimes, when we think about God creating the world, we just think about our planet. But our galaxy, called the Milky Way, is one of somewhere between 100 and 200 BILLION galaxies in the universe. And that’s just the galaxies we can see with high-powered telescopes! I’d say that creation is definitely worth celebrating!”

GOD SUSTAINS

LEADER: “But God didn’t just create the world and then leave it. Let’s take a look at the rest of Psalm 100:3 *(read): We are his people. We are the sheep belonging to his flock.*

“What do you know about sheep? Sheep are fluffy. Sheep eat grass. But sheep are not always too smart, are they? Yeah, sheep need someone to take care of them, right? Sheep need a . . . *(prompt kids to respond)* shepherd! A shepherd takes care of the sheep, helps them find grass to eat, and protects them from animals that could harm them. God takes care of us the same way!

“He didn’t just make you and me and then leave us alone to figure life out on our own. Who can help me flip this next image over?”

Choose a volunteer to flip the turkey photo around, and then send the volunteer back to her seat.

“God sustains us. Sustains. That’s sort of a big word, isn’t it? It means that God takes care of us. He puts us in families. He gives us the ability to grow food, to build shelter, and to create things of our own! He makes the grass grow and the flowers bloom year after year. Just as you have people in your life who lovingly take care of you, God is our heavenly Father who takes care of us, and that’s something to celebrate too!”

GOD SAVES

LEADER: “If all God did for us was create and care for us, that would be enough reason to celebrate! But God did even more! Let’s look at the last verse in this psalm. *(Open Bible and read from Psalm 100:5, NIV.) The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever. It will last for all time to come. Did you catch that? His faithful love continues forever.* I need one more volunteer to help me turn over this last photo.

Choose a volunteer to flip the Christmas tree photo

around, and then send the volunteer back to his seat.

“You see, we needed a Savior. Why? Well, because of something called sin. Sin is anything that you or I do that keeps us from having a relationship with God. It’s basically anything we do that’s wrong. And we do wrong things every day, don’t we? And all of those wrong things we do keep us from being with God, who never does anything wrong. But God loves us so much. God wants us to be with Him, and God did something about it. God sent His Son Jesus to earth to die on the cross for our sins. And three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. Because of what Jesus did on the cross—taking the punishment we deserved—when we put our trust in Jesus, we can be saved. We can be a part of God’s family and live with God forever in a place that will ‘last for all time to come!’ Now that’s DEFINITELY a reason to celebrate!”

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

LEADER: “The writer of this psalm knows what he’s talking about. We should shout for joy because of all the things God has done and will keep doing in our lives. God creates, sustains, and saves! One last time, let’s shout for joy. At the count of three shout, ‘Thank You, God!’ One, two, three!”

LEADER and KIDS: “Thank You, God!”

LEADER: “Yes! And now we have a better idea of what God has done and continues to do for us. That means even if you’re having a bad day and can’t think of one single reason to be thankful, you can at least remember these three things that God has done for all of us. He made us, He loves us and cares for us, and He sent Jesus to save us. No matter what, we can thank God for that and celebrate what He has done. It’s like our memory verse this month reminds us.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

*“Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV. No matter what is going in our lives, we can **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.** And that’s the one thing to remember today.*

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Celebrate what God has done.

Pick up the pictures one by one and show both sides as you talk through the next section.

“When we celebrate birthdays, we’re celebrating that God made us. And when we celebrate Thanksgiving, we’re celebrating that God continues to care for us and sustain us. And when we celebrate Christmas, we’re celebrating that God sent Jesus to save us.

[Bottom Line] “Celebrate what God has done, because He has done a LOT. Let’s start right now by thanking Him for what He’s done. Let’s pray.”

Pray

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for all You have done for each and every one of us in this room. You

made us, You love us, and You sent Jesus to save us! You have done so much for us, and we are thankful! Help us to remember to celebrate what You've done for us each day. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

Historyteller exists as Power Praise enters.

Worship

HOST: "Let's celebrate God today by standing up and singing some songs about just how awesome He is!"

Host joins the audience as Power Praise enters.

Worship

SFX: "Happy Day"

SFX: "Unshakable"

SFX: "Your Love Never Fails"

Host enters as the Power Praise team exits.

Closer

HOST: "Hey, everyone! We can celebrate all that God has done in more ways than one. We can pray and thank God for the things we have. We can tell others about all the things God has done for us. We can celebrate all God has done when we sing songs about Him. We can also celebrate what God has done by doing things for other people. There are MANY ways to celebrate the MANY things God has done for us.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

"But no matter what that looks like, we need to be sure and **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.** Turn to your neighbor and say that one more time."

HOST and KIDS: **[Bottom Line] "Celebrate what God has done."**

HOST: "That's right! God deserves all the gratitude we can give Him. I'm not just saying that either. No, it actually comes from the Bible. Paul wrote, in 1 Thessalonians 5:18

CG: *Memory Verse Slide*

'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

"Read that with me."

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

HOST: "So there you go. God deserves all the gratitude, all the thanks, and all of the praise we can give Him, all of the time, no matter what is going on around us."

“It’s time for Small Group, where you’ll get to learn more about what it means to **[Bottom Line]** **celebrate what God has done!** Have fun, and we’ll see you next week! Bye, everyone!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

Keep Psalm and Be Thankful

Bible: Keep Psalm and Be Thankful (A psalm of thanksgiving) • *Psalm 100:1-5*

Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV

Life App: Gratitude—letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Letter Layout

What You Need: Bibles; a large poster or printout of the verse;

What You Do:

- Use the Bibles to look up 1 Thessalonians 5:18 together.
- Then let kids look at the printout of the verse and pick out the most important words: “give,” “thanks,” and “God.”
- Direct them to lie on the floor and make each letter of each word with their bodies.

What You Say:

“This is like whole body gratitude! What kind of thing might someone do that would deserve this much thanks? (*Pause for responses.*) Those are great answers for sure, but I’m thinking of someone even bigger! God has done so much for us. Not only did He make the world and people so amazingly, and not only is He with us all the time through His Holy Spirit, but God also sent Jesus to rescue us from being stuck in sin. That’s what this verse is talking about. No matter what difficulty you face, you can be thankful to God because of Jesus. It’s because of Jesus that we can live forever with God and have friendship with Him all the time here on earth. That’s something that no one can ever take away. Your relationship with God is forever not even death can stop it. That’s why we get together every week here at church to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done**. He deserves all our gratitude and all our celebration because what God has done for us through Jesus is forever.”

Optional Additional Discussion Questions

- What’s the biggest celebration you’ve ever been a part of? Who did it celebrate and why?
- How is it different to celebrate what God has done than what people have done? Is it more fun to go to a birthday party than to church? Why?
- Do you think we ever take God’s gifts and His grace for granted? Are we ever just “meh” about celebrating what God has done? Read Romans 5:6-8. What do you think that means about how we should celebrate what God did through Jesus?
- If you were in charge of leading a weekly celebration of gratitude for what God has done, what would you include? What kind of music would there be? Would there be cake? Who would get or give gifts?

10:15**Celebration Launchers****[Talk about God | Bible Review | Application Activity]***Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

What You Need: “Celebration Launcher Instructions” Activity Pages, brightly colored paper, toilet paper tubes, decorative foam pieces, stickers, colored pencils or crayons, balloons, pens, tape, scissors, zip-top baggies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a sheet (or half sheet) of brightly colored paper.
- Instruct them to write down several things they are thankful for, explaining that they will cut each item out to create small pieces of paper like confetti.
- After everyone is finished with the first step, give each kid a toilet paper tube.
- Encourage them to use decorative paper, stickers, markers, etc. to decorate their tubes.
- Give each kid a balloon.
- Use the “Celebration Launcher Instructions” Activity Page to help kids create their launchers.
- Instruct kids to fold up or crumple the small pieces of paper and use them as confetti in the launcher.
- After kids have enjoyed some playtime with their launchers, encourage them to place the launchers inside a baggie to keep until Small Group is over.
- Kids will most likely have mixed their papers up, so they’ll be taking home some of their own and some of their friends’ papers. Encourage them to look through what is written on the paper scraps when they get home and see what their friends are thankful for too!

What You Say:

“Wow! Your confetti launchers look way cool! God has done so many amazing things and given us so much that we can be grateful for! Let’s test out our launchers and together **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.**”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]***Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Talk to your few about how often we ask God for things when we pray to Him.
 - Sometimes we pray for our dog to get better or maybe that we get that new toy we’ve been wanting.
 - But we can also pray prayers of celebration just thanking God for all that He has done for us!
- Ask everyone to quietly think of something God has given them that they’re thankful for. (If they need help thinking of something, encourage them to think of something they wrote on the paper in their celebration launchers.)

- As kids think of what they're thankful for, close the group in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, I know I often come to You to ask You for things, but today I just want to pray a prayer of celebration. You have given me so much to be grateful for, and You are such an amazing God! Even when I feel like I'm in need of something, I can always celebrate what You have done. Thank You for loving me and overflowing me with blessings! In Jesus' name, amen!"

Parent Cue