

Being Thankful

Lesson Objective: To read and discuss what God says about being thankful.

Opening Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for this time to gather as a family. We ask that you would open our hearts and minds to all You have to share with us today. Help us to hear your words and live them each day. Amen.

Activity : Gratitude Paper Chain.

Supplies:

Various colors of construction paper cut into 1 ½ inch strips (about 4-5 inches long);
crayons or markers;
tape or glue or stapler

Have children write what they're thankful for on strips of paper. Use the strips to make a gratitude chain to hang up, possible locations: eating area or on the front door or location that will remind us of the things we are thankful for.

Feasting on the Word:

Luke 17:11-19 (Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Page 244) **OR**

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Leviticus 13:45-46;

⁴⁵The person who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be disheveled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, "Unclean, unclean." ⁴⁶He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Philippians 4:6

⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Family Discussion:

- What did the Law of Moses command lepers to do? (Leviticus 13:45-46)
- How would you have felt if you had leprosy and had to live as an outcast?
- How many lepers came to Jesus?
- What did they want?
- Jesus told the lepers to go and show themselves to the priest. What happened as they went on their way?
- How many of the men remembered to say thank you?
- What did Jesus say to the man who came back? (verses 17-19)
- When should we give thanks to God?
 - Is it always easy to give thanks? Especially when things happen that we aren't happy about?

Read Luke 9:16.

¹⁶*And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.*

What did Jesus always do before eating a meal? Does your family remember to thank God before each meal? Many times when we pray, we are asking for things. What should we remember to do when God answers our prayers? How do you tell God thank you?

Optional Community Activity: Make Thankful Postcards

Supplies:

Construction paper or white paper cut to be 4"x 5"/6",
craft supplies,
postage (stamps).

During this time, it is fun to get hand written notes from the people we miss seeing, as well as the people we are thankful to have watching over us. So let's share just how thankful we are, with them, even though we are far apart!

Create postcards and write a message to people you are thankful for. This could be a family member you haven't seen because of stay-at-home observations, or a teacher you are missing, or an essential worker such as a nurse or doctor or police officer or EMT or Fireman/woman or mail carrier or another person who you are thankful for. Draw on one side of the card a picture or design. On the other side divide in half and on the left side, write a note letting the person know why you are thankful for that person, on the right put the address and postage in the right corner.

If the post office is close, take a walk to mail, if it is not, pop into the mailbox for postal carrier to pick up.

Challenge: Count your blessings. Have each family member tell 5 things they are thankful for.

Closing Prayer: Gracious and loving God, we have so much to be thankful for, even in the midst of all of these unusual times. We have families that love us, a church that prays for us, ... *insert other blessings, encourage children to participate, using the 5 things that they are thankful for from above...* But most of all we have the love you give to us in Jesus Christ. We are so thankful for all you have given us. Amen.