

# Alley “All Together Activities”—November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Today’s Bible Story:** Always Something There to Remind Me (Give Thanks No Matter What Happens) • 1 *Thessalonians 5:18*

**Today’s Key Question:** What are you grateful for?

**Today’s Bottom Line:** You always have something to be grateful for.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.*  
Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

## 1. Opening Activity

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- **Invite** the kids to form a physical distanced circle.
- **Choose** a kid to stand in the middle of the circle with their eyes closed.
- Quietly **point** to one kid, designating them as the Leader.
  - Their job is to make eye contact with one of the kids in the circle, then blink twice at them without the kid in the middle seeing it happen.
  - The person who is blinked at must immediately shout out, “THANK YOU!”
  - Then, the kid in the middle tries to guess which kid is the leader.
- **Begin** the game as soon as the kid in the middle is allowed to open their eyes. They will have two turns to guess who the Leader is.
- **Choose** another Leader and a different kid to be in the middle and play again.
- **Play** as many rounds as time and interest allow.

### What You Say:

“A couple of blinks in our game signaled a shout out of ‘THANK YOU!’ In life, it’s a grateful heart that prompts us to say thanks. **[Transition]** This month we’re focusing on what gratitude is all about letting others know you see how they’ve helped you. When it comes to being grateful to God and others, there’s always more to learn.”

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Paper, pens (1 per kid, per service)

### What You Do:

- **Give** kids paper and pens.
- **Direct** kids to make a list of 10 things they are grateful for.
  - Their lists might include people they love, things they have been given, favorite foods, places, or activities—really, anything for which they are grateful.
- **Explain** that at your signal, they will shout out one thing that’s on their list—everyone at the same time.
- **Pause** and let kids write down as many things as they heard the other kids shout out.
- **Repeat** until all the words from kid’s original lists have been shouted then compare and see who has the most complete list.
- **Challenge** kids with one final round by asking them to think of something they often forget to be grateful for or that’s not easy to feel thankful for at the time.
- As they did previously, ask kids to shout out together.
- **Review** what the kids heard in the final SHOUT OUT then let them share about the situations they found difficult to be grateful for.
- **Ask:**
  - What’s one good thing that came out of that situation?
  - When things don’t go the way you want, what’s wrong with feeling ungrateful?
  - Is it possible to be disappointed or sad about something and still be grateful? Explain.

### 3. Discussion Questions

- Describe an ungrateful person. Now describe a grateful person.
- What would you say are the main reasons people are ungrateful?
- Do you think we can be grateful even when we don't *feel* happy? Why or why not?
- What's the best way to change an ungrateful attitude to a grateful one?

### COMMUNION CALL ACTIVITY: Verses to Take with You

**NOTE: Begin this activity at "Communion Call"**

**What You Need:** Psalm 136:1 SLIDE on Screens

#### What You Do:

- **Look up** and read aloud Psalm 136:1.
- **Ask:**
  - How does knowing God's love is forever give you reason for thanks?
  - How has God shown you that He is good?
  - People often think that if God is good, He won't let anything bad happen. What do we know about God that helps you understand why people face hard situations?
- **NOTE:** *Let kids take turns saying the verse in different ways.*
  - opera singer
  - whisper
  - shout
  - robot
  - baby
- **Point out** how different each kid's voice sounded even though they were all saying the same words.
- **Remind** kids that in life, we all go through good times and bad, but we don't all react or sound the same when it comes to our responses.
- **Ask:**
  - What would an ungrateful kid sound like and say when life feels like it's going wrong?
  - How would a grateful kid react differently?
  - What determines the way we sound or act when faced with a disappointment?
  - Why do we always have something to be grateful for?