

City LG—November 1st, 2020

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

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

Monthly Memory Verse: Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever. Psalm 136:1 (NirV)

Early Arriver Activity: Which is Worse? Activity

NOTE: Begin this Activity, using the Computer Slides, 10 minutes before your Service start time. Children will choose which option they think is worse, and stand on that side of the room.

CG: Countdown Video (Runtime: 1:00)

WORSHIP: At the Top of My Lungs and Zeal

Worship Leader prays...

"Hi, everyone! I've got a great verse from the Bible to share with you (*hold up Bible*) that helps us understand why it's important to show gratitude.

"A long, long time ago, there was a man named Paul. Paul decided to put his faith in Jesus, then he spent his life traveling around and starting new churches. Paul would travel to a city, tell people about Jesus, then help those new followers of Jesus start a church. He would stay and teach them for a while, then he'd travel to the next city to tell MORE people about Jesus.

"One of the cities Paul visited was a place called Thessalonica. Can you say, 'Thessalonica'?"

KIDS: "Thessalonica."

"That's great! Paul had started a church in Thessalonica, then he left to start a new church somewhere else. But Paul loved the followers of Jesus in Thessalonica, so he continued to check on them. They didn't have email, phones, or video calls back then, so Paul wrote them letters. In fact, Paul wrote lots of letters to encourage followers of Jesus in different churches. Two of the letters he wrote to the church in Thessalonica are two of the books of the Bible: 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians.

"Listen to this really important piece of advice from one of the letters Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.

Open the Bible to 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NirV) and read.

"Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.

"Let me read that again.

"Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.

"Paul wanted the Thessalonians to be grateful. That's a really good reminder for us, too. We can be grateful to people for the ways they've helped us. And we can also be grateful to God for all the ways HE'S helped us. But that isn't always easy to do, is it? (*Pause.*) We know we SHOULD be grateful . . . but sometimes we forget. That's what this week's Episode is all about. Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 9:00)

“Being grateful is part of following Jesus. Because of Jesus, and how much He loves us, we can have joy, no matter what! Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] You always have something to be grateful for.

When you start to feel frustrated or mad, when things just aren't going your way, no matter what happens, you can stop and think about Jesus. You can remember how much God loves you. You can think about how grateful you are to HIM—and that will help you be grateful to the people around you, too.”

“Let's pray and thank God now.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus so we can have a relationship with You. Thank you for being a God **[Basic Truth] we can trust no matter what.** We are so grateful! Please help us live with gratitude to You and to the people around us, too. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

“Wow! If you're ever having trouble feeling grateful, just think about Jesus. Jesus died to pay the price for our sin so we could be forgiven! Because of Jesus, we get to have a relationship with God that will last forever. God is ALWAYS with us. He will never stop loving us!

“It's like Paul said in his letter—we can live with gratitude every day because of what Jesus has done for us.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You always have something to be thankful for.

“No matter what happens—when things are going great, even when you feel scared, angry, or confused—you can be grateful to God and others.

“It helps when we remember to stop and thank God. When we pray, we don't have to ONLY ask Him for the things we need. We can thank Him for the way He loves us and for all the good things He's given to us.

“Our memory verse this month is Psalm 136:1. Let's read it together.”

SLIDE: Memory Verse Slide

KIDS: “Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.” (Psalm 136:1, NIV)

“God is so good to us! He loves us, and He is always with us. We can live in a grateful way because of everything He's done in our lives. In just a moment, we are going to do some fun activities as a group together. While your leaders and I get set up, let's check in this month with our good friend MC Haggis. Watch this!”

CG: MC Haggis Video (Runtime: 2:15)

NOTE: When the video is complete, lead the kids through the “All Together Activities” using the attached sheet.