



Bible Point ▶

Jesus wants us to say thank you.

Bible Verse

“Be thankful in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will learn to be thankful for the help friends give, discover that God gives good gifts, and thank God for what he’s given to them.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

Jesus heals 10 lepers.

**Luke
17:11-19**



The disease called leprosy in the Bible is generally thought to be the same as what we call Hansen’s disease. That disease often results in rotting flesh, which can be very repulsive. That would at least partially explain why lepers were outcasts, forced to live outside the village. And as seen in today’s passage, they weren’t even allowed to get close to other people.

It’s interesting that Jesus didn’t heal the 10 lepers on the spot. Before they could be healed, they had to act on what Jesus told them to do. They had to respond to Jesus in faith by heading toward town to see the priest. If they hadn’t trusted Jesus, they probably wouldn’t have gone—they would have looked foolish showing up before the priest still having leprosy. But when they demonstrated their faith, they were healed.

Only 1 of the 10 lepers returned to thank Jesus. That may be a better percentage than the expressions of thanks you receive from your students, but that’s something you can help them work on. Encourage them to be thankful for what God and others do for them, as the leper was thankful to Jesus.

Prayer

- Read Colossians 3:15. How do the peace of Christ and our thankfulness fit together?
- Which of the lepers are you more like, the nine or the one?
- Pray: Lord, help me to always be thankful for all you’ve done for me, and help me to encourage that kind of thankfulness among my students when they...

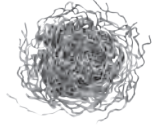




Before the Lesson

Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.

Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.

Pray for your students and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome	Welcome! —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and decorate name tags.	Name tags from Lesson 9, construction paper, tape, safety scissors, markers	
Attention Grabber	Powerful Words —Play a game to see that good things happen when they say thank you.	Paper, masking tape	
Bible Exploration & Application	Caring Pairs —Listen to 2 Thessalonians 1:3, wrap the hands of a partner, and feed him or her a treat.	Bible, newspaper, tape, malted milk balls	
	The 10 Lepers —Listen to the story from Luke 17:11-19 about 10 lepers who were healed.	Bible, CD player	
	Thankful Pop-Ups —Listen to Psalm 100:4-5, and thank God in a lively way for the gifts he’s given to them.	Bible, crayons or markers	
Closing 	Thanks for You —Listen to Colossians 3:17, thank God for their classmates, and sing a song to God as a promise to be thankful.	Bible, marker, pencil, CD player	

Welcome

SUPPLIES: name tags from Lesson 9, construction paper, tape, safety scissors, markers

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Growing Together" activities. Use questions such as "How were you kind to someone in your family last week?" and "In what ways did your family show kindness to others?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that** ► ***Jesus wants us to say thank you.***
- Pass out the name tags children made during Lesson 9, and help them write the word "thankful" on one of the fingers. Suggest to any non-writers that they draw a face instead showing an expression that represents the word "thankful." Then help the children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged, or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the instructions in Lesson 9.
- Tell the children that you'll raise your hand to get their attention. They should respond by raising their hands and focusing on you. Rehearse this signal and encourage the children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities in this lesson.



BIBLE POINT



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

Attention Grabber

Powerful Words

SUPPLIES: paper, masking tape

Choose a volunteer to be "It," whom we'll call "May-I" for this lively game. Give everyone else a sheet of paper and two strips of masking tape. Have the children scatter around the room, tape their papers to the floor, and then stand on their papers.

Say: **In this game, the person playing May-I will go around the room and ask, "May I stand here?" If you answer, "No, you may not," May-I will ask someone else the same question. May-I will ask different people the same question until someone says, "Yes, you may." Then May-I will say, "Thank you." As soon as May-I says, "Thank you," everyone who's standing on a paper must run and find a new paper to stand on. May-I will stand on the paper that belongs to the person who said, "Yes, you may." The person who's left without a paper to stand on is the new May-I. Are you ready? Here we go.**

Play the game several times so different children have a chance to be May-I. Then raise your hand to get children's attention. Wait for children to raise their hands and stop talking. Then ask:

- **What happened when the person playing May-I said thank you?** (The game started; we all started running.)
- **What happens when you say thank you in real life?** (People like it; the person feels like doing something nice for you again.)
- **What's it like when someone says thank you to you?** (I'm happy; I'm glad; I feel good inside.)



Children are awfully busy. They dart from one thing to the next without taking time to appreciate what they have. Watch for teachable moments throughout today's lesson when you can reinforce that being thankful makes others—and themselves—feel good.



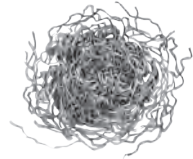
Say: **The words *thank you* are powerful words. When we say thank you, good things happen, just as they did in our game. In the game, all the fun started when May-I said thank you. Saying thank you in real life lets people know you appreciate them. Today you'll find out that ▶*Jesus wants us to say thank you.***



Bible Exploration & Application

Caring Pairs

SUPPLIES: Bible, newspaper, tape, malted milk balls



Form pairs. Say: **One of you gets to have your hands wrapped up in newspaper, and the other gets to be the wrapper. In your pairs, choose who will be wrapped and who will be the wrapper.** Give each pair newspaper and tape.

Have pairs tear long strips of newspaper. Have the partner who will be wrapped hold on to one end of a newspaper strip. Have the other child wrap the strip around his or her partner's hand and tape the end so it doesn't come undone. Have the children continue wrapping their partners' hands in newspaper until both hands are completely wrapped up.

While the children are working, separate the *manger hay* into small "nests." Make a nest for each pair. Put four malted milk balls in each nest.

When the children are finished wrapping up their partners' hands, raise your hand to get their attention. Wait for children to respond.

Say: **I have treats for you now. Choose a partner to come up and get a nest. Then share the treat in it with your partner as you talk about this question:**

- **Why are you thankful for friends?** (Because they're fun to play with; because they help me when my hands are tied up; because they like me.)

The partners who aren't wrapped up will have to help their partners eat the treats. Give them a minute to figure this out. Then raise your hand to get children's attention. Wait for children to raise their hands and stop talking. Bring the class together and ask:

- **What did it feel like to have your hands wrapped up like that?** (A little scary; funny; it didn't make sense to me so it was weird.)

- **Did you expect that anyone would help you? Why or why not?** (I thought Ashley would help me because she knows I don't like being tied up; I expected that the teacher would help if I asked.)

- **How did friends help you during this activity?** (My friend helped me eat the treat; my friend helped wrap my hands.)

Say: **Here's another way for friends to help you. Now it's time to unwrap your partners' hands.**

Give children a moment to unwrap their partners' hands and put the newspaper in the trash can or recycling bin. Collect the *manger hay* and put it away. Then ask:

- **What is it like now that your hands have been unwrapped?** (Better; now I can do things with my hands again; good.)

- **What did you tell your friend when he or she helped you?** (I said thank you; I laughed and said that was fun; thanks.)

Say: **I'm sure it feels great to be able to use your hands again. I know you must be thankful that your friend unwrapped you. Otherwise you might have a hard time eating lunch today! The Bible talks about being thankful for each other. Listen to 2 Thessalonians 1:3.** Read the verse aloud from an easy-to-understand version of the Bible such as the *Hands-On Bible* in the New Living Translation.

Ask: • **Why does the person in this Bible passage say thank you to God?** (Because God loves him; because the people are being really nice to each other.)

• **What is one reason you say thank you to God?** (Because my dad started reading the Bible; because God loves me.)

Say: **Give your partner a pat on the back and say, "Thanks for unwrapping my hands."** Give children a minute to do this.

Then say: ► ***Jesus wants us to say thank you* to our friends. It makes him happy when we remember to say thank you, so I'm sure he's pleased with you right now. Let's find out about some people who forgot to say thank you to Jesus.**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

The 10 Lepers

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



track 11

Cue the CD to track 11, "The 10 Lepers." Open your Bible to **Luke 17:11-19** and show children the passage. Say: **The Bible story today comes from the book of Luke. Listen carefully to the story so you'll know what to say at the end of the story.**

Play the CD. When the story is over, turn off the CD player and ask:

• **Why do you think the nine men forgot to say thank you?** (Maybe they were so excited they just forgot; maybe they didn't understand that Jesus really healed them; maybe they were mad that Jesus didn't touch them.)

• **Why is it important to say thank you?** (So people know you are glad they did something for you; to be polite.)

• **Has someone ever forgotten to say thank you to you? What happened?** (Yes, my mom forgot to say thank you when I gave her a Christmas present; my teacher forgot to say thank you when I helped clean the room.)

• **How do you feel when someone forgets to say thank you to you?** (Sad; unhappy; like the person doesn't like me.)

Bible Insight

The skin disease described in Luke 17:11-19 is often called leprosy. Leprosy is an unattractive skin disease and in Jesus' time the term was not limited to what we call leprosy today. The Bible required that people with leprosy be quarantined from the rest of society.



Say: **Saying thank you is important. It lets people know that we appreciate the things they do for us. When we forget to say thank you, it makes others sad, just as Jesus was sad when nine men forgot to say thank you to him. ► *Jesus wants us to say thank you, the way the one man in the story did when he took time to say thank you.***

Ask: • **When was the last time you said thank you for something? What did you say thank you for?** (I said thank you to my mom for fixing my favorite meal for dinner last night; I thanked my dad for watching me play soccer.)



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

• **Did you ever say thank you to Jesus for what he did for you? What happened?** (Yes, I prayed to Jesus and now I believe I will live with Jesus forever; yes, I said thanks and asked Jesus to be my forever friend, and now I'm happy.)

Say: **There are many things we should thank the Lord for. The greatest of gifts is the gift of eternal life God promises us if we believe in his Son, Jesus. If we are sorry for our sins and believe that Jesus died for them, we will become forever friends and live with Jesus in heaven forever. Let's take time to thank Jesus right now for all he's done for us.** Lead children in a round of applause.

Thankful Pop-Ups

SUPPLIES: Bible, crayons or markers



Push all the furniture against the walls. Scatter the following items on the floor around the room: the *stuffed animal*, the *foam disk*, the *plastic coins*, the *container of sand*, a *snake whistle*, the *mini-maraca*, and crayons or markers.

You'll need the *tambourine*. Say: **Listen to what God's Word says about thanking God.** Read **Psalm 100:4-5**.

Let's thank God right now. Look at all the items around the room. Choose one item that makes you think of something you're thankful for. For example, I'll pick the *mini-maraca* because it makes me think of music and I'm thankful for music. I'll give you a minute to look at the items. When I shake the *tambourine*, go stand by the item you've chosen.

Give children a minute to look over the items. Then shake the *tambourine*. It's OK if more than one child stands by an item. When all the children are standing by an item, say: **Now crouch down and wrap your arms around your knees. Make yourself into a tight ball. When I tap you on the head, jump up and thank God for the thing you thought of. I'll go first.**

Join any children who are near the *mini-maraca*. Crouch down and wrap your arms around your knees. Pat yourself on the head, jump up, and shout: **Thank you, God, for music!** Then tap children on their heads and have them jump up and call out what they're thankful for.

If no one stood next to some items, ask the class what those items remind them of that they can be thankful for. Have the class crouch down together. Then on "go," have children jump up and praise God for the things they named. Afterward, collect the Learning Lab items and put them away.

Ask: • **What was it like to thank God?** (It made me happy; it was fun.)

• **Why is it good to thank God?** (Because he loves us; because he does good things for us; because the Bible tells us to.)

• **Who can you say thank you to besides God?** (My mom; my dad; my teacher; my sister; my brother.)

Say: ► ***Jesus wants us to say thank you. We can be thankful to God, and we can be thankful to others. It's fun to say thank you. Let's see what our Bible verse for today, which comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:18a, has to say***



BIBLE POINT ►

about being thankful: ► **“Be thankful in all circumstances.” That means we should be thankful all the time!**

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

HANDS-ON BIBLE

Before class, create a megaphone for yourself following the instructions listed for the “Shout to the Lord!” activity near **Psalm 100** of the *Hands-On Bible*. For this activity, you will need colored sheets of construction paper and empty paper towel rolls—one for each child—as well as safety scissors, crayons or colored markers, and tape for children to share. Say: ► **Jesus wants us to say thank you. Sometimes when we feel thankful for something, we get so excited that we want to shout about it! Let’s see what the Bible tells us about saying thank you to God.**



Direct children to open their *Hands-On Bibles* to the “Shout to the Lord!” activity. Read **Psalm 100:4** (it’s highlighted on the next page), and have the children listen to you as you read the activity aloud. If you have readers in your class, have them read aloud with you. Show children the megaphone you created before class and tell them they will be creating megaphones of their own so they can shout thank you to the Lord. Hand a sheet of construction paper and an empty paper towel roll to each child and set out safety scissors, crayons or colored markers, and tape for children to share. Walk the children through the instructions for the activity, assisting children as needed.

When children have completed their megaphones, read **Psalm 100** in its entirety. Let volunteers take turns making up cheers to say thank you to God. Then ask:

- **Why does ► Jesus want us to say thank you?** (Because it’s the nice thing to do; because God is good and we have lots to be thankful for.)
- **What’s your favorite way to say thank you to God?** (Sing; jump for joy; clap my hands; shout hooray.)

Lead children in a cheer for God, encouraging them to use their megaphones to shout their praises of thanksgiving.



Closing

Thanks for You

SUPPLIES: Bible, marker, pencil, CD player



track 12

Have children sit in a circle.

Ask: • **What did you learn today?** (To say thank you; that Jesus wants us to say thank you.)

Say: **Jesus does want us to say thank you. We’re going to do that one more time today. This time we’re going to say thank you to Jesus for each other.**

Use a wide-tipped marker to write your name on the thin edge of the *foam disk*. Pass around the disk and the marker and have children write their names on the disk’s edge. Make sure the children spread their names out along the edge. When the disk comes back to you, stick the end of the pencil through the hole in the middle of the disk.



Spin the *foam disk*. When the disk stops spinning, read the name that's facing you on the *foam disk*. Say: [Child's name], **I thank Jesus for you.** Then pass the disk and pencil to the person on your right. Have that person spin the disk and thank Jesus for the person whose name is facing him or her when the disk stops spinning. Spin again if someone's name comes up twice. It's OK if children thank Jesus for themselves. When all the children have had a turn, put the *foam disk* back in the Learning Lab.

Say: **God's Word tells us to be thankful for everything. You did a great job thanking God for your classmates. Listen to what Colossians 3:17 says.** Read the verse from your *Hands-On Bible* in the New Living Translation or another easy-to-understand version of the Bible.

Ask: • **What can you thank God for right now?** (My family; friends; the Bible.)

• **How can we remember to thank God in all we do?** (Pray; read the Bible; remind each other.)



Say: ► ***Jesus wants us to say thank you. It is right to be thankful. Let's sing a song about doing right. Let's sing it as a prayer to God to show that we want to do the right thing and say thank you.***

Close your class by singing "Be Thankful" (1 Thessalonians 5:18a) on track 12 of the *CD*. Lyrics are at the back of this Teacher Guide. Be sure to collect the name tags for next week's lesson.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week's topic. Follow up the "Growing Together" activities next week by asking children what their families did together.

Growing Together

Jesus' Ministry 11:
Jesus wants us to say thank you.

Bible Story
Jesus heals 10 lepers.
(Luke 17:11-19)

Key Verse
"Be thankful in all circumstances"
(1 Thessalonians 5:18a).

In Touch

Today your child learned that it's important to say thank you to God and to others. Children learned that it feels good both to say thank you and to receive thanks from others. Use these activities to share the joy of a thankful attitude with your child this week.

Sweet Thanks



Make this treat with your child. Choose a large mixing bowl and fill it with scoops of vanilla ice cream and root beer. Give each family member a straw, a spoon, and a napkin, and then dig

in. Between sips, talk about what you're most thankful for. Also talk about why you're thankful for each family member.

Delayed Thanksgiving

Instead of praying before your meals this week, offer a prayer of thanksgiving after your meals. Deuteronomy 8:10 says, "When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you." Praise God for the good smells and tastes of your food. Thank God for nourishment and full stomachs. Also thank God for the farmers who grew the food and for the conversation and family togetherness that go with a good meal.

Everyday Thanks

Fill a grocery bag with several everyday items such as a toothbrush, a shoe, a rock, and a spoon. Have your child pull out the items one by one. Talk about what life would be like without each item. Then thank God for taking care of our small, everyday needs.



What If...

Play this game to teach your child to "be thankful in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Say, "The worst thing that could happen would be if..." Have your child complete the sentence. Encourage your child to think of silly and impossible ideas such as "It started raining in our living room" or "The world ran out of chocolate." Then say, "But we could still thank God because..." And have your child finish the sentence with ideas such as "it didn't rain in the kitchen" or "the world still has butterscotch."