

Be Thankful in all Circumstances

Lessons from the Bible: Luke 17:11-19

Optional items needed: Construction paper, markers, crayons, notepaper.
(Items to make "thankful cards")

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will choose someone in their life they are thankful for and plan a way to thank that person this week.

INTRO:

When was the last time you blessed someone when they sneezed? I don't mean saying, "God bless you," when you hear them blow. I mean when was the last time you said, "God bless you," and meant it? My guess is most of us in here – kids and adults – have never thought of it that way. Saying, "God bless you" is a habit. We are taught that when someone sneezes, we say, "God bless you." We are taught to say the words, but we aren't necessarily taught why.

Parents teach kids a lot of habits like this. We wash our hands after using the bathroom. We brush our teeth at bedtime. We buckle our seat belts when we get in the car. We tuck our nose into our elbow when we sneeze. These are great habits because they are habits that keep us healthy and safe.

Parents also teach their kids other habits, habits that help us to be polite and kind. They teach us to say, "God bless you" when someone sneezes. They teach us to say, "May I," and, "Please," when we ask for things. They teach us to say, "Thank you," when someone gives us something or does something nice for us.

Saying, "Thank you," is a very important habit, one we should all practice, but if "Thank you" is just an automatic habit, like saying, "God bless you," we are missing out. ***Being thankful is an important part of being a Christian. God wants us to be thankful every time we pray. He wants us to count our blessings and praise him for all of them. And God wants us to show gratitude to the people who do good things for us, big and small, every day.*** Let's look at a story from Jesus' life and see what being truly thankful looks like.

LUKE 17:11-19 - Be Thankful

¹¹ Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. Traveling from Galilee to Samaria, ¹² he came into a small town. Ten men met him there. These men did not come close to Jesus, because they all had a harmful skin disease. ¹³ But they called to him, "Jesus! Master! Please help us!"

¹⁴ When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."^[a]

While the ten men were going, they were healed. ¹⁵ When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (This man was a Samaritan.) ¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Ten men were healed; where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" ¹⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed."

MAIN POINT:

Jesus gave these ten lepers something no one else could. He gave them back their health, but he also gave them back their lives. Leprosy was such a contagious disease, lepers were forced to live outside the city. They could never see their families or friends again. If someone came too close, they literally were required to chase them away!

When Jesus healed them, he restored their health and their lives, but only one man came back to say thank you. The others were too excited to show themselves to the priests, to be declared clean, and get home to see their loved ones. **The one leper who said, "Thank you" shows us how important it is to stop what we're doing and show real gratitude to the people who bless us every day.**

DRIVE IT HOME:

We say thank you for a lot of things. We thank people for holding doors for us. We thank them for our drinks in restaurants. We thank them for loaning us pencils. It's important to say thank you, even in these small instances, to let people know we appreciate their little kindnesses. But it's equally important that we thank the people who bless us in big ways.

When was the last time you thanked God for life? For flowers? For puppies? Or for Jesus? When was the last time you sat down and counted all the blessings, big and small, that God has given you?

How about your parents? When did you last thank them for all they've given you? Moms and Dads work hard to provide homes and clothes and food and toys for their kids. Even the things we don't necessarily love, like doctor visits and school, are blessings from our parents. Have you ever taken the time to thank them for making sure you get an education and stay healthy?

God wants us to have grateful hearts. He wants us to show our thanks to him and everyone who blesses us. When we are thankful, we let other people know that we appreciate them. We also remind ourselves, over and over, how blessed we truly are. A grateful heart can't be a sad heart for long because a grateful heart is always aware just how much our God and our loved ones care for us!

Saying, "Thank you," is a great habit, but it should never be a mindless habit. God wants us to be mindful of our blessings. He wants us to take the time to thank Him and others for all they do for us. Be intentional when you say thank you, and go out of your way to thank the people who go out of their way for you.

Don't just say the words, "Thank you," because you have to; say, "Thank you," because you mean it.

Final Thoughts:

- Being grateful is an important part of following Jesus. It lifts us up when we are down, and it helps us to be mindful of the blessings God gives us.
- This week, seek out a few people who have been extra kind to you, and let them know you appreciate all they've done. Give thanks to the people who bless you, and give thanks to God who sends all good things from above.

Close in Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for all you've given us.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

Memory Verse:

Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus. – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Write each word of the verse on a single notecard. Give each kid a card containing a single word (if you have fewer students than words, some kids may need multiple cards). Have the group arrange the cards and put the verse in the right order. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

Activities:

- **Watch Thankful Video – Jesus and the Lepers**
- <https://youtu.be/LzZUDRrKgl8>

CRAFT IDEA:

- Have the kids write a note or draw a picture for someone special, someone they are thankful for. Let them take these notes and drawings home, and encourage them to pass these on to the people they need to thank.
- Make a Thankful Journal. (Print-out attached – 2 on a page).

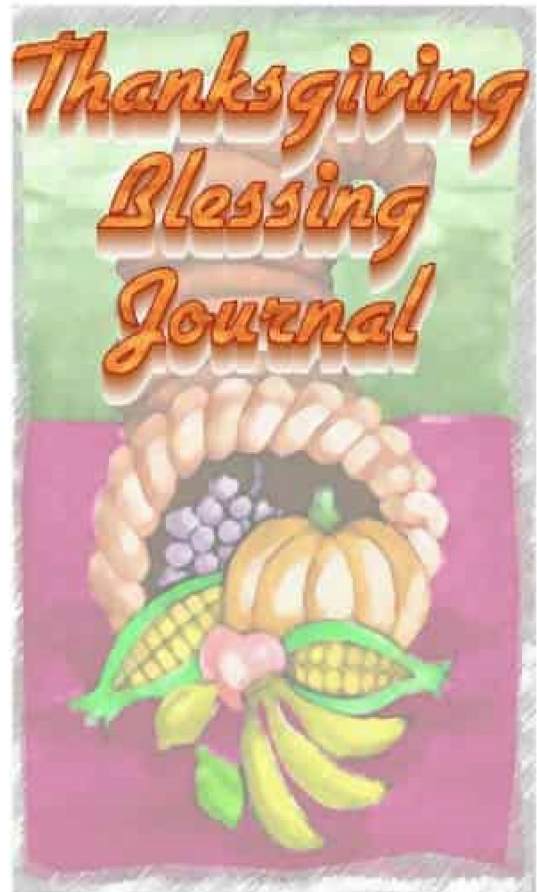
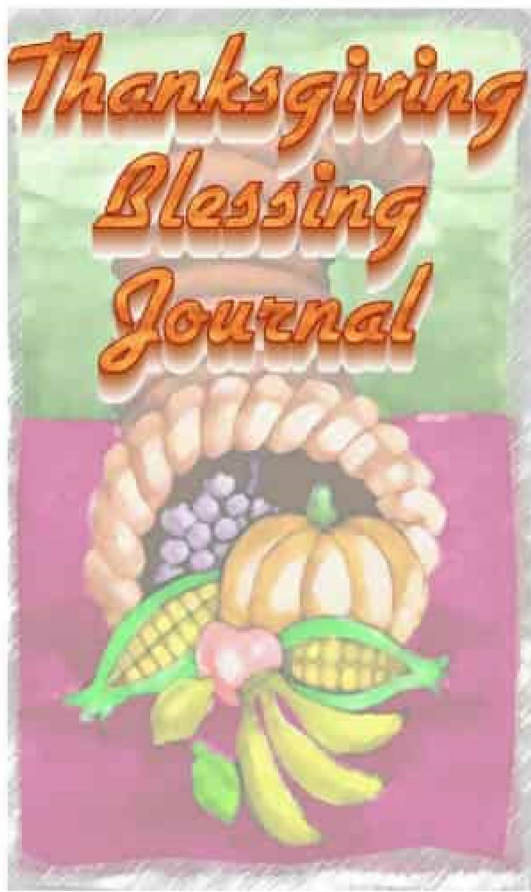
Activity Sheets:

- Thankful Journal
- Give Thanks Coloring Page
- Thank You Jesus Coloring Page
- Fall for Jesus Coloring Page

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

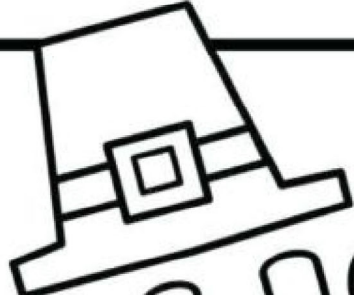
~ *Teacher Chrissy*

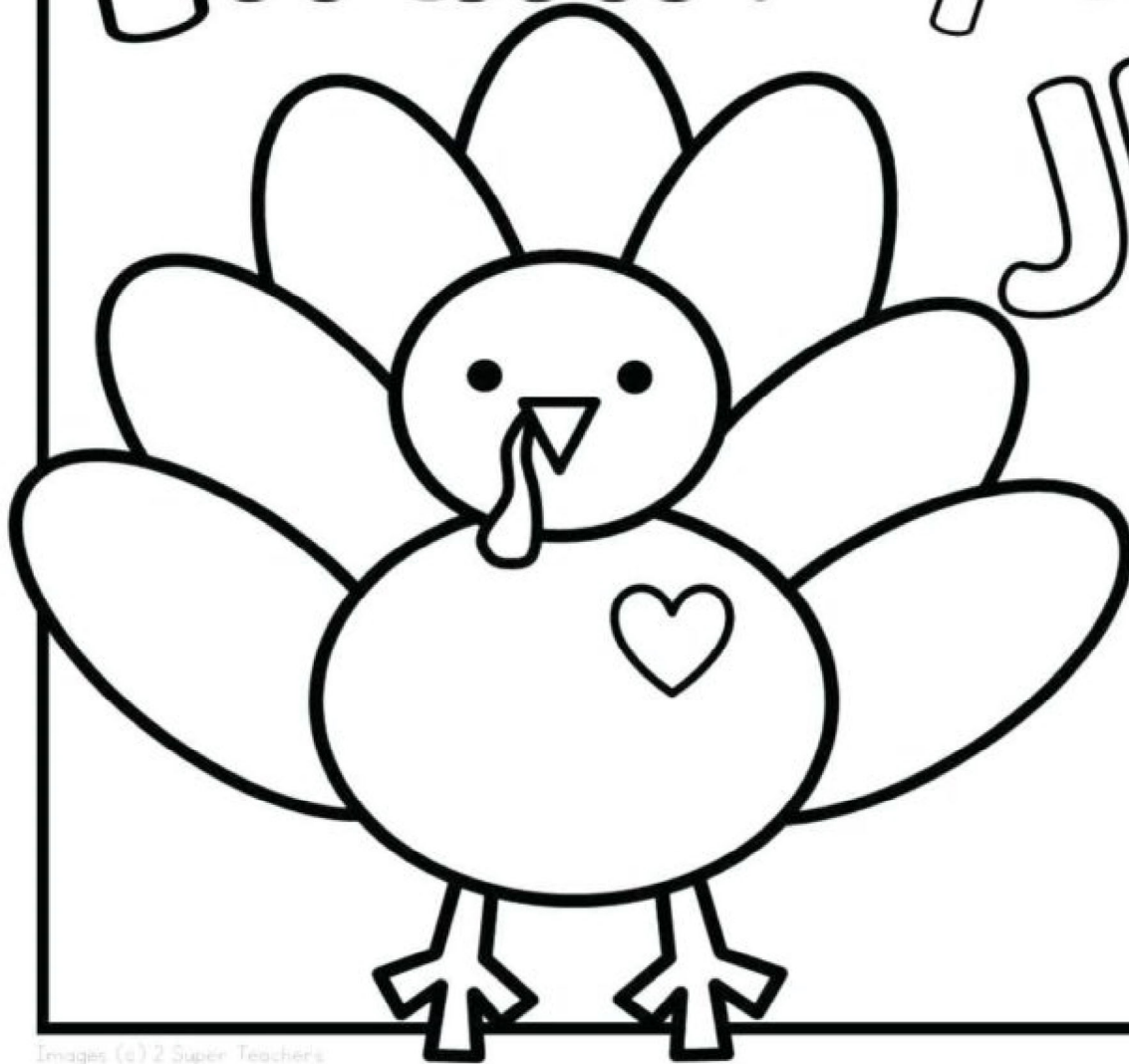
Thank you to <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.



G i v e

T h a n k s

Thank you  JESUS
for:





*Falling
in love
with
Jesus*