

I Am So Grateful!

Pre-K – Grade 5

Sunday, November 12, 2017

This Week's Theme: We are thanks for all of our blessings. Gratitude opens our hearts to more joy, peace, and love.

Teacher Insights:

1. God made everything we need to live a very happy life.
2. Giving thanks for what we have increases our blessings.
3. There is always something we can be grateful for.

Inspirational Writing:

Thanksgiving -- Rendering our grateful thoughts to God for His manifold blessings.
- *The Revealing Word*, Charles Fillmore

Bible Verse: Today is the day God made for us. We are happy and thankful! (Psalm 118)

Unity Principle #3: I create my experiences by what I choose to thank and what I feel and believe.

Affirmations: I am grateful for you. I am grateful for me.
I am grateful for all of God's blessings.

Pre-Activity: 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Younger Students: "Count Your Blessings" coloring sheets

Older Students: **Option #1:** "100 Blessings" - What Are You Thankful For?
Option #2: Play games in pairs or small groups

Heart Agreements describe ways we show respect for one another. We agree to have:

Gentle Hands
Open Hearts
Walking Feet
Listening ears
Kind Words

Sacred Circle 11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Gather children in a circle for morning prayer.

Invite children to create an affirmation that describes how they feel today, for example: "My name is _____. I am grateful for _____." Everyone affirms each child by saying, "(Name), we are grateful for YOU!" Continue until all have been affirmed.

Centering Breath for prayer: Breathe through your heart: imagine your breath is going in and out through your heart.

Invite children to place their hands over their hearts. Breathe in goodness all around us and breathe out blessings to the world.

Affirmations (*Say together*): I am grateful for you. I am grateful for me.
I am grateful for all of God's blessings.

Lesson Introduction: 11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. **I Am So Grateful!**

- What does it mean to be "thankful?"
- What are you thankful for?
- What makes you want to say "thank you" to someone?

Today's Stories:

Younger Students: Read aloud **Thank You, God** by Holly Bea (books are in white tubs).

Discussion: Read a story about all of the things that make us feel grateful. (Pre-K and K might want to shorten the story.)

- What kinds of things did the girl in the story feel grateful for?
- What is *The Golden Rule*? (Treat others in ways that you would like to be treated.)
- As we read the story, how did it remind you what makes you feel thankful?

Older Students: Read aloud **Are You God?** (story printed on sheets in the white tubs).

Discussion: After reading the story with children, talk about the following questions:

- What did the soldier do to show kindness to the little boy? (He bought the boy a bag of doughnuts)
- Why was his gift so special to the boy? (The boy was a hungry orphan.)
- Why did the boy ask the soldier, "Mister, are you God?"
- Has someone ever been kind to you?
- How have you shown kindness to others?

Bible Verse: 11:20 – 11:30 a.m. Give thanks to God!

Give thanks to God because God is good. God's love lasts forever. - from Psalm 118

Read aloud **A Prayer of Thanksgiving** from Psalm 118 adapted for children (copies printed and in white tubs).

Bible Verse Discussion: After reading the story with children, talk about the following questions:

- Who loves you? How do you know?
- How do you show others you love them?
- Where do you see God in the world?
- How do you talk to God?
- Which of God's gifts make you feel most thankful?

Creative Expression: 11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Younger Children: "I Am Thankful" Coloring Book

Materials: "I Am Thankful" coloring book, crayons

1. Distribute copies of the "I Am Thankful" coloring book to each child.
2. On pages 1-3, encourage children to color the pictures.
3. On pages 4 and 5, invite children to draw and color pictures of their families and of themselves.
4. Share and discuss their drawings with one another.

Older Children: Gratitude Wreath

Materials: cardboard ring, construction paper & foam leaves, black Sharpie, glue stick

1. Give each child a cardboard ring and set of construction paper and foam leaves.
2. Instruct children to write words that express things or people that make them feel thankful on each construction paper leaf.
3. Glue the leaves to the cardboard rings



Closing Prayer/Circle: 11:50 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

Let's pause quietly. We send thoughts of love to everyone in the world. (Pause)

Source of All Light, we feel love and gratitude in our hearts. Give us eyes to see God in ourselves and in one another. Help us be Light in the world. Thank you, God!

Join everyone in the church for closing songs.
We will return to classrooms after the blessing.

Teacher Reminders: Please HELP

- Encourage children to help tidy up the classroom.
- Remind parents and adults responsible for children to sign out before they take a child out the classroom.
- Give parents copy of the **November newsletter**.
- As parents if they need **registration forms** for their children.
- Return the teacher tub and all supplies to the Resource Room.