

LESSON 1:

GIVE THANKS

MEMORY VERSE:
“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!”
Psalm 100:4

CONNECT:

Welcome the kids, introduce yourself, and tell them that you want to get to know each other better. Tell them something about yourself. (Today, tell them your favorite dinner when you were younger). Give the kids a chance to tell three other people their favorite dinner.

Ask the Holy Spirit to come and be with us today. Bring understanding as we hear His Word.

INTRO:

Have you ever gone over a friend's house and spent time there? Maybe for dinner? Maybe a sleep over? Maybe a party or just to hangout?

What is something that your mom or dad might tell you to do when they pick you up from your friend's house? (say thank you for letting you come over/or for dinner/etc.)

Most of the time we enjoy being with our friends and then thank them when it's time to leave. Right?

Today's verse says: 'Enter his gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!' This is very interesting, because it tells us to **ENTER** His gates/house/presence by giving thanks and praise to Him!

Let's try Entering our friend's house by first giving thanks.

Who wants to volunteer?

(Have them come up to you or volunteer who is pretending to be parent of a friend, and say 'Thank you Mr./Mrs. _____ for letting me come over to your house today.' 'Thank you for inviting me to dinner.')

Thanking them first sets the mood for the rest of your time at their house.

LESSON 1:

GIVE THANKS

BIBLE STUDY

Read: Luke 7:36-47

The Sinful Woman

Why were the pharisees and disciples so upset by what the woman did?

- They knew she was sinful and shouldn't be touching Jesus because of her sinfulness.

- She wasted an entire alabaster jar of perfume on Jesus' feet

(this was very expensive perfume—about 300 denarii which is about \$54,000 US dollars today) (She probably had spent her life savings to buy it and it was probably meant to be for her own burial, but she saw that Jesus was worth more.)

Jesus used the story about the money lender to explain something to Simon.

What was he trying to teach Simon? (that the person who had more debt forgiven, was more grateful, more thankful, and they loved the person who forgave them even more than those with less debt forgiven.

For Example:

Say I lend (name of student) \$1,000 and then lend (another student) \$100,000, but they both have trouble paying me back. I decide to forgive them of their debt so they don't have to worry about paying me back. Which person would be more grateful? Of course the one I lent \$100,000 to. For that person would've had to sell their house and all their possessions to pay me back. It would've cost them everything.

LESSON 1:

GIVE THANKS

GOING DEEPER

SEEKING JESUS:

Part of Praising God is thanking Him for all the things He has done, and for who He is. There is no one like Him!

The woman in our story praised Jesus with all her heart.

Remember:

She used her tears to wash his feet and her hair to dry them.

She continually kissed his feet.

She anointed His head with oil.

She poured expensive perfume on his feet.

Why do you think she reacted that way? What did the woman see in Jesus that caused her to react to Him the way she did?

She realized her great need for a Savior. She had sinned so much in her life. She saw Jesus, and the love he had for her, the forgiveness he had for her. She knew that she was not worthy of His presence, His love, His forgiveness---and yet he offered it anyway! She truly was thankful with ALL her heart!

ALTAR CALL:

If you've never experienced deep heart felt thankfulness to God the way this woman did, but you want to truly have her heart for Jesus, then I want you to come forward. (give them time to come forward and kneel at the front of the room.)

Thank the Lord. Invite His Presence. Now, ask the Holy Spirit to release a heart of thanksgiving and praise over the kids. Holy Spirit come. Open the eyes of our hearts to see Jesus the way this woman did in the Bible. We want to see you with her eyes. To love and adore you with heartfelt gratitude and thanksgiving!

LESSON 1:

GIVE THANKS

ENCOUNTER TIMES

1) PRAYER Craft

Today we are going to make a thank you guide that will help us focus on the things to thank God for as we enter his gates when we pray.

(use the template provided and have one for each child. If time you can cut out each square and staple together to make a prayer booklet for each child) Let the kids fill in the squares with the things that they are thankful to God for. They may draw or write them.

Here are some ideas too get started with:

Creation: favorite animals/the sun/ the snow

Salvation: Jesus and the cross

Family: mom/ dad/ grandparents/ siblings

Friends: playmates

Needs: Food and shelter

Church: pastor/leaders

School: teachers/ education

Health: health of family/friends

LOVE: God's love, loving family, etc.

2) PRAISE

Because Jesus is my friend, I want to hang out with Him.

Do you ever wonder how to do that? Sometimes you may try to talk to God, but maybe you don't sense His presence with you. How do we invite His presence into our room?

Let's Thank God First and then invite His presence.

Have a microphone set up or a pretend microphone.

Explain to the kids that we are going to invite God's presence to be with us. Since He is our friend, we are welcome to be with Him, but let's enter His presence with Thanks and Praise!

Have the kids form a line. Have the first in line say Thank You Jesus for _____. " Or "Thank You God for _____. " The longer you are able to do this, the more the kids will have to go past the 'book/surface' for answers and start digging into the 'heart' for answers. This is when the kids will begin to experience the presence of God with them.

LESSON 1:

GIVE THANKS

ENCOUNTER TIMES

3) PROPHECY: HGV GAME

(use pictures on HGV worksheet for this exercise)

Post the four animal pictures on the wall/board. Have the kids decide what their favorite animal is but don't tell anyone. Now, hand out small pieces of paper around the room and have the kids secretly write the first letter of the animal they picked. Then have them fold up the paper and put it in their pockets (or hold it in their fist).

Ask one volunteer to come forward. Tell the class that they are going to ask the Holy Spirit what picture this person wrote down. Give them time to seek the Lord and receive any words or pictures from Him. When they think they know, have them raise their hand and tell the class. (you can keep a tally on the board under each picture).

Once you tally it up, have the volunteer reveal what they wrote on their paper. See if it matches what people picked for them. Remind them that this is just a chance to learn how to hear God's voice, if you didn't get it this time, it's okay! We are learning together.

4) POWER

We grow in the Lord when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we learn to be thankful in all things (good or bad).

Pray that each child would be filled with a thankful heart. Have the kids create a fire tunnel. (Have the kids form two lines -parallel to each other. Then have the two lines face each other, but leave enough space between the lines so people can walk down the middle)

Now instruct the kids in the line to lay hands on the person walking down the middle and pray quick prayers for the Holy Spirit to come and fill them with joy and thanksgiving! When they get to the end of the tunnel, they join one of the lines. Continue this until everyone has a chance to walk through the tunnel.

ENTER by Giving Thanks!

CREATION

SALVATION

FAMILY

FRIENDS

NEEDS

CHURCH

HEALTH

LOVE

HEARING GOD'S VOICE GAME



LION



SEA
TURTLE



HORSE

TAKE IT HOME

TIME WITH GOD

LESSON 1: GIVE THANKS

USE THIS AS A 5 MINUTE FAMILY DEVOTION AROUND THE DINNER TABLE, OR YOU CAN USE IT IN YOUR PERSONAL ALONE TIME WITH GOD.

Day 1: Read- *Psalm 9:1* **"I will give thanks to you Lord, with all my heart; I will tell you all of your wondrous deeds."**

-Do you ever wonder why we are supposed to tell God all the things He's done? -He knows what He has done for us----but when we tell God all He has done, it helps us remember and our heart becomes thankful once again.

Prayer- Thank You Lord for _____ (list the many things he has done for you.) You are good and there is none like You!

Day 2: Read- *2 Corinthians 9:11* **"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."**

-Read that again. It says that God enables us to be generous in every situation and that our generosity results in thanksgiving and praise to God.

-What are ways you can be generous? Maybe it's giving some change to a friend to let them buy a snack at school, or selling some of your things to help a family member or neighbor in need.

Prayer- Help me to be generous with what you have given me, so that your name may be praised!

Day 3: Read- *Psalm 100:4* **"Enter His gate with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him. Bless His name."**

-This week we talked about ENTERING God's presence with a thankful heart and Praise to His name. Underline ENTER, THANKSGIVING,, and PRAISE in your bible passage.

-When we enter His presence with thankfulness, we come expecting great things! Why? Because we remember who God is---He is good!

Prayer- Thank you Jesus for being my friend and for never leaving me. I praise you for your never ending love. You are good. Make me more like you. Amen.

Day 4: Read- *Philippians 4:6* **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."**

-What does anxious mean? (worried, nervous)

-It says to pray about your concerns, and with a thankful heart make your requests known to God. Thankful for who He is and what He has already done, believing he will do it again!.

Prayer- Father, I am so thankful that you showed me your love and that you saved my life. You have helped us financially, spiritually, physically, now Lord we ask that you do it again. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD

(CONTINUED)

LESSON 1: GIVE THANKS

Day 5: Read- *I Chronicles 16:34* “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

- How has God been good to you and your family? (list some things)
- How do you think your parents would answer that question? How does that make you feel?

Prayer- Father, your love endures forever, so I will give thanks to you forever! Fill me with your Spirit, so I may always have a heart of Thanksgiving. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Notes/Prayers:

Memory Verse: “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.” Psalm 100:4