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Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to learn about thankfulness. Did you know that life is way more fun when you are thankful? It's true! There are three things to keep in mind about being thankful. First, it's good to know the opposite of thankfulness so you know what to avoid. The opposite of thankful is grumpy. A grumpy person complains and points out all the negative stuff in life. They aren't fun to be around. This leads to the second thing. We get to choose to either be grumpy or thankful. You aren't born as a grumpy person or a thankful person like you're born a boy or a girl. You can choose to be thankful, no matter what, because thankfulness is an attitude. Now, the last thing is the most important thing. We can be thankful because God is good. God created every beautiful flower and he invented ice cream! See, God is good! God loves us and he wants the best for us. In fact, he has a whole plan for each and every one of our lives and he has the power to accomplish it! So, don't be grumpy. Choose to be thankful. It's a way better way to live.

Big Idea

We can be thankful because God is good.

Key Question

How do we know that God is good?

Memory Verse

Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: What are the top 3 things you're thankful for in your life?** (Tip: We all have things we can be thankful for in our lives. God should definitely be on this list because he gives us everything we have.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because he loves and protects us and he provides us with everything we need.** (Think about your favorite toy or stuffed animal. You take good care of it and keep it in a safe place, right? That's how God is with us. He created a beautiful world for us to live in with food, water and air to breathe. He gives us everything we have and everything we need. And, the most loving thing of all is that he sent Jesus to die for our sins.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** How do we know that God is good? What are some other things that prove God's goodness to us? **4-5th:** How will you go about choosing to be thankful in your life?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Hebrews 12:28. What is the unshakable Kingdom? How can we show God our thankfulness?** (Answer: Kingdom refers to heaven. Heaven will be the coolest place ever! There won't be any pain or sadness. If you've trusted in Jesus, then you get to go there some day. We can show God our thankfulness by reading our Bibles and obeying it. We can sing songs to him at church and spend time praying, telling him how much we love him. And, we should share Jesus with our friends. God wants our friends to go to heaven, too.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: GOD IS GOOD HIGH FIVE CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a half sheet of white paper, a half sheet of construction paper and a pencil.
- Give each kid a Hand template (page 5).
- Have kids trace one of their hands on the white paper. Then have them cut it out.
- Have them fill out each of their "I'm thankful for..." statements. (You may need to help kids with ideas and spelling). Have them glue each statement onto one of their fingers.
- Have them glue the handprint onto the middle of the construction paper.
- Then, have them glue the Big Idea at the top of the construction paper and the verse at the bottom.
- If you have time, allow them to color and decorate the palm of their hands.
- As they work, remind the kids to choose to be thankful. It's a way better way to live.

Supplies needed: White paper (cut in half, 1 half per kid), Construction paper (cut in half, 1 half per kid), Pencils, Hand template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Scissors, Glue, Crayons

OPTION 2: GOD IS GOOD JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a bell or ringer.
- Read a question below. First to ring in gets a chance to answer. If correct, that team gets a point. If wrong, the other team gets a chance to answer for a bonus point. Team with the most points, wins.

Questions:

1. What was the Big Idea today? (see board)
2. What is the opposite of thankful? (grumpy)
3. T or F: You can choose to be thankful. (T)
4. What's the book full of God's truth? (Bible)
5. What book is our memory verser from? (Psalms)
6. Why did Jesus die for us? (sins)
7. T or F: God is mean. (F)
8. Where can we live with Jesus some day? (heaven)
9. What is something a grumpy person does? (negative, complaining)
10. How can you show thankfulness to God? (Bible, read, worship, share Jesus, pray)

Supplies needed: Bells/ringers

Q12

KIDS' WISDOM

Three Things About Thankfulness

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No matter what happens, we can choose to be thankful because God is good.

Key Points:

- Thankfulness is the opposite of _____.
- Thankfulness is a _____. Psalm 100:1-2
- We can be thankful because God is _____. Psalm 100:4

Memory Verse:

Psalms 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

Talk About It

1. *What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?*
2. *What are the top 3 things you're thankful for in your life?*
3. *What is the opposite of thankfulness?*
4. *How has God blessed you? How can you choose to be more thankful?*
5. *Read Hebrews 12:28. What is the unshakable Kingdom? How can we show God our thankfulness?*
6. *How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?*

Instructions: Color the picture.

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THANKFUL
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Key Question

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Three Things About Thankfulness

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WE CAN BE THANKFUL BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD

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I'M THANKFUL FOR:	I'M THANKFUL FOR:	I'M THANKFUL FOR:	I'M THANKFUL FOR:
I'M THANKFUL FOR:			

WE CAN BE THANKFUL BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD

Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name."

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