

Thanksgiving: God Leads Me to ...

Thank Him for All He Has Given Me

Bible Story: God Cared for Elijah
(1 Kings 17:7-16)

Bible Phrase: Give thanks to God for
He is good. *1 Chronicles 16:34*

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Levels of Biblical Learning

God

- God cares and provides for people.

Self

- I can pray.

Life Application

I can thank God for all
He has given me.

Bible Skill

Knows that the two
main parts of the
Bible are the Old
Testament and the
New Testament.

Early Arriver Activity

Prepare a Meal—As preschoolers arrive, invite them to pretend to prepare a meal and set tables for their family. Use bandannas as place mats, hoops as circle tables, and form square- and rectangle-shaped tables with ropes. Say: “Thanksgiving is a time when we can be with our families and eat a meal together. We can thank God for the good things He has given us, like food and family.”

WARM-UP

Get-involved Activity (5–10 minutes)

Say: “We can give thanks to God for all the good things He has given us. God gave us all the colors.” Count to three and ask preschoolers to shout “Thank You God for _____” and say their favorite color. Explain that when the music starts, they can move around the room. When the music stops, they will find a hoop and stand inside. Roll the color cube. The preschoolers standing in the hoop with the dome matching the cube will shout out something they can thank God for, but it has to be the same color as the dome. For example, one preschooler standing in the hoop with the red dome might say, ‘I thank God for red fire trucks’ and another might say, ‘Red apples.’ If the color cube lands on white, roll it again. Randomly start and stop the music. Play as time allows.

Provide:

- ☐ Toy dishes
- ☐ Toy food
- ☐ Bandannas
- ☐ Hoops
- ☐ Ropes

Provide:

- ☐ Domes (red, yellow, blue, green, and orange)
- ☐ Hoops
- ☐ “Color Cube” (EZ Pack Item 7)
- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD player

To Do:

- ☐ Arrange hoops at random around the room. Place one dome in each hoop.
- ☐ Cue CD 1 to “Colors” (track 26).

WORKOUT

Group Learning (15–20 minutes)

Provide:

- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD Player

To Do:

- ☐ Cue CD 1 to “TeamKID Club Song” (track 1).

Provide:

- ☐ 3 Bibles
- ☐ 2 Hoops

To Do:

- ☐ Place hoops on opposite sides of the room.

Provide:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 ropes
- ☐ 2 swim noodles
- ☐ Hoop
- ☐ 2 domes
- ☐ “Story Cards” (CD Item 35)
- ☐ Tape

To Do:

- ☐ Make a brook on the right side of the room by arranging ropes in parallel lines. Make a town gate on the left side by propping the noodles side by side against the wall. Make the lady’s home by placing the hoop on the floor close to the front or back wall. Place two domes a few feet apart side by side and a few feet away from the hoop.
- ☐ Print and cut apart the cards. Tape the cards near the equipment:
 - lady—noodles
 - bread—hoop
 - flour—dome 1
 - oil—dome 2

Note: Story cards will also be used during THE TOURNAMENT and COOL DOWN.

1. Welcome and sing. Welcome the preschoolers. Say: “We can thank God for giving us healthy bodies. Listen to the music and follow my actions.” Play the song and add movements such as touching the floor and reaching high.

2. Practice a Bible skill. Display a Bible. Explain the Bible is divided into two sections. Show where the Old Testament begins and say: “You can read stories that took place before Jesus was born.” Open to Genesis 1 and place the Bible in a hoop. Display another Bible and show where the New Testament begins and say: “You can read stories about Jesus and His life in the New Testament.” Open the Bible to Matthew and place it in the other hoop. Explain that you will say the name of a book and show them the page where it is found. Ask them to go to the hoop where they think the book is located—Old or New Testament. Call out six books or continue as time allows.

3. Tell the Bible story. Explain that the preschoolers will travel around the room as you tell the story. Invite preschoolers to sit near the ropes. Open your Bible. Say: “Our story begins at a brook. What do you think belongs in a brook? (*water*) Listen to what happened to the brook.”

God Cared for Elijah

Elijah was a man who loved God. It had not rained for a long, long time. Elijah was staying by a brook. All the water dried up from the brook. God told Elijah to go to a town. A woman there would give him food and water.

So Elijah walked until he got to the town gate. [*Walk to the town gate. Show “Lady.”*] A lady was at the gate gathering sticks to build a fire. Elijah was very thirsty and asked her for a drink of water. As she was leaving to get water for him, Elijah said, “Will you please bring me some bread, too?”

The lady told Elijah, “I don’t have any bread. I am gathering sticks to build a fire so I can make a meal for me and my son. All I have is a handful of flour in a jar and a little bit of oil in a jug. Then we will have no more food to eat.”

Elijah said, “Don’t worry. Go home and make some bread for me. Bring it to me. Then make some for yourself and your son. God will make sure you have enough flour and oil until He sends rain.”

The lady mixed up the flour and the oil and made bread. [*Walk to the hoop. Show “Bread.”*] She took it to Elijah. Do you think there was enough flour and oil left for the lady and her son? [*Walk to the first dome. Show “Flour.”*] Yes! The lady mixed the flour and the oil and made some bread for herself and her son. What do you think happened next? [*Walk to the second dome. Show “Oil.”*] Flour was still in the jar and oil was still in the jug. Each day the woman made bread for Elijah. The lady did not run out of flour and oil, just like Elijah said. God took care of Elijah, the woman, and her son.

—1 Kings 17:7-16

4. Introduce the Bible phrase. Invite the preschoolers to sit in a circle. Say the Bible phrase. Instruct: “Everybody will say ‘Give thanks to God.’ Only the person holding the ball will say, ‘for He is good.’” Hold the ball first. Tell the group to repeat after you: “Give thanks to God.” Then explain: “I’ve got the ball so I say, ‘for He is good.’” Pass the ball to the child sitting next to you. Continue around the circle until everyone has a turn.

5. Review the Bible story. Say: “Each story card is under a dome.” Ask the children if they can remember some ways God took care of Elijah before looking under the domes. Choose a volunteer to lift up a dome. Assist in reading the card and attach the card to the wall.

6. Apply the Bible story. Read the cards from the wall and talk about how God took care of Elijah by giving him what he needed. After each one, talk about what God has given to the preschoolers. Explain: “If what I say is something God has given you, then say: ‘Thank You, God, for You are good.’” For example, say: “God showed Elijah where to get water to drink. God gives you water to drink.” The preschoolers would respond by saying, “Thank You, God, for You are good.” Repeat in this manner with each of the following: (*lady to prepare food*)—“God has given you someone to make your meals for you.” (*bread*)—“God gives you food to eat.” (*flour*)—“God has given your family a way to buy food.” (*oil*)—“God has given you a place for your family to buy food.”

7. Sing and pray. Say: “We can say thank you to God for all the good things He has given us.” Sing the song “Say Thank You.” Invite preschoolers to say sentence prayers to God.

8. Move to STRETCHING. Explain what will take place in STRETCHING. Dismiss the preschoolers by calling out colors of food. Those who are wearing those colors may go to their activity. For example, ask who is wearing the same color as pumpkins, broccoli, and so on.

STRETCHING

Art and Manipulatives (20–25 minutes)

Today’s activities are designed to help preschoolers know that they can thank God for giving them good things, like food, shelter, and family. Place groups of five or six preschoolers with a coach.

Activity Page 1

Say: “In our story today, we learned that God took care of Elijah. God takes care of you, too.” Guide children to trace the words in the first square and draw the pictures in the other squares. Say a prayer to thank God for their homes, food, and family.

Provide:

- ☐ Foam ball

Provide:

- ☐ “Story Cards” (CD Item 35) from WORKOUT Step 3
- ☐ 4 domes
- ☐ Tape

To Do:

- ☐ Arrange domes in a line. Place a card under each one.

Provide:

- ☐ “Story Cards” from WORKOUT Step 5.

Provide:

- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD player

To Do:

- ☐ Cue CD 1 to “Say Thank You” (track 12).

Provide:

- ☐ Activity Book pages (CD Item 39)
- ☐ Pencils, crayons or markers
- ☐ Materials listed on side 2 of the activity page.
- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD player

To Do:

- ☐ Print an activity page for each child.
- ☐ Cue the CD to “Help Clean Up” (track 3).

Activity Page 2

As children participate in these art activities, look for opportunities to talk about the good things God gives to people. Point conversations toward thanking God for taking care of us and providing us with the things we need. Play “Help Clean Up” five minutes before time to transition.

REACH OUT

Missions Emphasis Time (10–15 minutes)

Provide:

- ❑ “World Map” (EZ Pack Item 2)
- ❑ “Wise Cards” (EZ Pack Item 19)

Motions and keywords:

Eyes: *[Point out Italy.]*

Look at the map to see that Italy is shaped like a _____. (*boot*)

Muscles: People who play sports have strong, healthy bodies. They are called _____. (*athletes*)

Feet: Play this sport by kicking the ball into a goal to score a point. (*soccer*)

Hands: Chat with a friend by typing a message on this machine. (*computer*)

Ear *[Cup your ear with your hand]:* You can ride in one of these when you travel. It makes this sound: “Choo choo.” (*train*)

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of Woman’s Missionary Union.

Explain each card as shown in the margin. Instruct the preschoolers to follow your motions when you show the four cards. As you read the story, cue the children as indicated.

Telling Athletes About Jesus in Italy

Jason Greenwich is an International Mission Board missionary in the country of Italy. You can see Italy is shaped like a *[show eyes card and point to map]* boot. Jason belongs to a group called “Atleti di Cristo”, professional *[show muscles card]* athletes in Italy who follow Jesus. Professional *[show muscles card]* athletes are people whose jobs are to play sports. The people in Italy love the sport *[show feet card]* soccer. Jason wants to tell the *[show muscles card]* athletes about Jesus. Once a month, money from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® pays for Jason’s ticket to ride in a *[do ear motion]* train. He travels on a *[do ear motion]* train so he can visit with a *[show feet card]* soccer team and pray for them.

The *[show muscles card]* athletes of “Atleti di Cristo” were planning to have a party on Thanksgiving Day. Fabio, one of the *[show muscles card]* athletes, invited his brother, Francesco, who did not know about Jesus. Francesco said he did not want to go, but he told his brother that he had a dream that a man named Jason invited him to a party.

That evening Fabio was typing messages on his *[show hands card]* computer to some of the *[show muscles card]* athletes. When Jason told Fabio his name, Fabio was surprised. He told his brother that he was talking to someone from the “Atleti di Cristo” whose name was Jason. Francesco changed his mind and went to the party on Thanksgiving Day.

Some time later, Francesco and Jason typed online to each other on the *[show hands card]* computer. Jason told Francesco about Jesus. Francesco decided to follow Jesus and typed these words on his *[show hands card]* computer for everyone to see: “I belong to Jesus forever.”

—Information provided by the International Mission Board

Say a prayer thanking God for people who give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® that helps support missionaries. Pray that God will help Jason tell more athletes in Italy about Jesus. Pray that athletes in Italy will follow Jesus.

THE TOURNAMENT

Games and Activities (10–15 minutes)

Lead these games one at a time so all preschoolers can participate together. If you have a schedule of less than 1½ hours, choose one or two of these games.

Play Soccer

Say: “In our REACH OUT story, we learned that Jason Greenwich played on a soccer team so he could tell people about Jesus.” Lead preschoolers to pretend to play soccer. Place each child with a partner a few feet apart from each other. Instruct one child to hold the goal (hoop) so that it touches the floor and the other to kick the ball through the goal by using the side of his foot. Demonstrate. Allow time for each to practice kicking.

Place children in teams of three. Give each team two hoops and one ball. Instruct those with hoops to stand facing each other a few feet apart. Guide the kicker to stand in the center of the room between his teammates. Explain that when you blow the whistle, the kicker will kick the ball through one of his team’s hoops. Switch places. The new kicker will move the ball across the room through his teammate’s hoop. Switch places. The third kicker will move the ball back across the room and through his teammate’s hoop. Continue to play as time allows. Comment that we can thank God for giving us healthy bodies.

Flour and Oil

Say: “In our story, we learned that God provided flour and oil.” Pretend to make bread. The balls are flour and oil and the parachute is dough. Instruct preschoolers to sit down around the edge of the parachute. Choose two *cooks* to toss the flour and oil onto the parachute. Instruct the others to shake the parachute up and down while the cooks crawl on hands and knees on top of the parachute. Tell the cooks to smooth out the dough by popping all the bubbles. Guide cooks to move off of the parachute and lead children to stand slowly allowing dough to rise. Walk in a circle and say the Bible phrase. Stop walking and say: “Touch your toes and lift the parachute over your heads. The bread is baking.” Instruct preschoolers to walk quickly toward the center and look up. As the parachute deflates, tell preschoolers to walk backward to their original positions and sit down. Repeat the baking process with two new cooks. Choose different ways to move around the circle while saying the Bible phrase: “Give thanks to God for He is good.” Some movements are tiptoe, slide feet, walk backward. Repeat until each child has had a turn to be a cook.

Mix and Match

Show the preschoolers how to weave in and out of the domes around the circle. Direct them to start moving when the music starts and freeze when the music stops. Stand as statues while saying the Bible phrase together: “Give thanks to God for He is good.” Let them lift the closest dome and pick up a card on the word “good.” Find friends with the same picture and sit down together. Encourage them to tell what they remember about the picture. Lead

Provide:

- ☐ Small balls
- ☐ Hoops
- ☐ Whistle

Provide:

- ☐ 2 foam balls
- ☐ Parachute

Provide:

- ☐ “Story Cards” (CD Item 35)
- ☐ Domes
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ CD 1
- ☐ CD Player

To Do:

- ☐ Print enough copies of “Story Cards” for each child to have one card.

- Cut apart.
- ☐ Arrange domes in a circle. Place a card under each dome.
 - ☐ Cue CD 1 to “Jesus Is Our Friend” (track 17).

Provide:

- ☐ “Allergy Alert Sign” (CD Item 1)
- ☐ “Story Cards” (CD Item 35) from WORKOUT
- ☐ “Review Cube” (EZ Pack Item 5)
- ☐ “Book: *God Wants Me to ...*” (EZ Pack Item 4)
- ☐ Napkins
- ☐ Cups of water
- ☐ Sugar cookies

To Do:

- ☐ Display the allergy poster before the meeting. List food that will be served for snack. Ask parents to inform you of any allergy concerns.

preschoolers to place their pictures under a dome and wait until the music starts again. Randomly stop and start the music. Repeat the game as time allows.

COOL DOWN

Refreshments and Conclusion (10–15 minutes)

1. Pray and serve a snack. Guide children to wash their hands. Thank God for providing food to eat. Serve water and sugar cookies. Comment that the sugar cookies were made with flour like in the story. Talk about other foods made from flour and oil. Remind preschoolers to say thank you to God for food He gives us.

2. Review the Bible story and Bible phrase. Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle. Talk about ways God provided for Elijah. Retell the Bible story and display the cards as you tell it. Prompt the preschoolers to say the Bible phrase after you hold up each card in the story. Use the “Review Cube” to further review the story. Remind the preschoolers to thank God for taking care of us, too.

3. Close the meeting. Collect the preschoolers’ take home items and place them near the door. Read the book *God Wants Me to ...* while waiting for parents. Give each child his take-home items and invite him back for the next meeting.