

THANKSGIVING

Date: 11.23.25 | Thanksgiving
Scripture: Psalm 136:1

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

PRESCHOOL:

- The Bible is a book about God.
- God shows His love to people.
- God tells people to worship Him.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

- The Bible is a book about God.
- God is the creator and worthy to be praised.
- God is worthy of worship.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

- The Bible is God's message about Himself and His plan of salvation through Jesus.
- God, the Creator, is to be worshipped, not His creations.
- God expects people to worship Him with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strengths.



MEMORY VERSE

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His
steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:1



BUSY BIN

As the kids arrive, they will stop by the table to pick up a snack, a drink, and a Thanksgiving coloring sheet. Please chat with the kids as they color and wait for everyone to arrive.

ACTIVITY

Each classroom will have a Thanksgiving bulletin board set. Please hang your turkey on the wall and have the kids fill out the feathers with things they are thankful to God for. Work together to fill out several feathers with stuff from today's psalm.

INTRODUCTION

This week, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. What are some things you think of when you think about Thanksgiving? Today, we are going to study a psalm, or song, in the Bible about being thankful. This psalm will look back on many of the things we have been studying this year and help us remember to be thankful to God as Creator and leader of the Israelite people.

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



TELL THE STORY - Psalm 136

This hymn calls on the worshipping congregation to give thanks to the Lord, who has shown His steadfast love throughout the history of God's people: from creating the world, to bringing Israel out of Egypt and leading them through the wilderness, to giving them victory over those who opposed them as they took the Promised Land. The psalm includes more recent acts of God's deliverance and care (23-25), interpreting them as the continuation of God's enduring commitment to His people. Each verse in the psalm has the same refrain, "for his steadfast love endures forever"; one cannot miss the theme. Perhaps the psalm was to be sung responsively, with a priest leading the first line of each verse, and a choir or the whole congregation replying with the refrain.

Read *Psalm 136* aloud. Have the kids repeat "His steadfast love endures forever" after you read each line. After each section of scripture, take a moment to elaborate on the details below, reminding your group about the things we have seen God do from Genesis to Joshua this year.

Praise God:

In *136:1-3*, the song opens with the call for God's people to give thanks to Him: He is good, He is the God of gods, and He is the Lord of lords.

Praise God for His Creation:

In *136:4-9*, the section celebrates the "wonders" or "marvels" that the Lord did in making the world using language found in Genesis. The OT often reminds God's people that the God who redeemed them is also the God who created the world and has a continuing commitment to His people.

Praise God for His Deliverance:

In *136:10-16*, the section recounts how the Lord brought Israel out from among the Egyptians with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and led his people through the wilderness. These verses use language found in Exodus and Deuteronomy.

Praise God for His Gift:

In *136:17-22*, the section recounts how God struck down great kings and gave their land to Israel as a heritage.

Praise God for His Care:

In *136:23-26*, the song turns to an apparently more recent event when the Lord remembered us in our low estate and rescued us from our foes. There are many fresh instances of God's care for his people that put his steadfast love on display.

Finally, in *136:26*, the Psalm wraps up giving thanks to the God of heaven.



ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in this Psalm. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true change the way we live in Christ?



SHARE THE GOSPEL

God's steadfast love endures forever! We don't have to earn God's love and could never deserve it, but the Lord's love for us is boundless! Spend time today thanking God for who He is and what He has done!

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

1. What does the Psalm tell us endures forever?
2. What is steadfast love?
3. In verses 3-9, what are some of the wonders or marvels the Lord has done?
4. In verses 10-16, what are some ways the Lord brought the Israelites out from the Egyptians?
5. In verses 17-22, how did the Lord make a way for the people to inherit the Promised Land?
6. Verses 23-25 speak of a time when God remembered us in our low estate. When has God shown his steadfast love to you?
7. What are some ways we can give thanks to God?
8. What do you want to thank God for?

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for who You are and what You have done! We praise You as Creator, Deliverer, Promise Keeper, and Sustainer. Help us to be continually mindful of Your presence in our lives. We love, praise, and thank You!

MISSIONS

For November and December, we will be collecting funds for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Children can place their donations in the giving funnel located at the top of the lobby.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Continue to use the Memory Verse Handout for fun ideas for practicing the memory verse for this unit.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves His children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time; He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps His promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

JUST - God is fair in all His actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of His children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

List taken from Jen Wilkin Bible studies



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is God inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

LOOK OUTWARD



- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD



- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?