

St. John's Church School
Old Testament - JSB Supplemental Lesson

Lesson 10 - Giving Thanks

Goal:

The children will know:

- We are to give thanks to God
- God is good
- God's love endures forever
- Definition of praise
- Definition of the word endure

Scripture:

Psalm 136:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Psalm 69:30

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Definitions of words

Praise is saying things to God that are true about God.

Endure means to last, or to bear with (as in God's love endures forever).

Instruction:

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever."

These are great words! In fact, they are the words of a song that we can hear on the radio today! But the amazing thing is that these words have been used in songs to praise God for thousands of years. About 3,000 years ago a man named David (King David of Israel) wrote these words down in order to praise God with them.

St. John's Church School
Old Testament - JSB Supplemental Lesson

David also wrote these words: *“I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.”* (Psalm 69:30)

Praising God means saying things to God that are true about Him. When we say things like: “God is good!” that is praising God, because God is good!

We might say things like “God is loving” or “God is always there” and that is praising God, because those things are true about God. God is loving and God is always there.

What are some other things we could say to praise God?

What kinds of things can we say that are true about God? *(Listen to answers from students; give feedback.)*

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.”

His love endures forever.

That’s a new word, endure. Endure means that something lasts, or bears with other things. It means that it doesn’t go away, no matter what. So, God’s love lasts forever; it will bear with all other things forever; it will be there forever.

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.” The Bible says that we are to give thanks to God. We are to give thanks to God because He is good. And God is good, isn’t He? Let’s talk about one of the ways that we know God is good. We know God is good because He gives us good things.

(James 1:17) *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...*

Let’s name some of the good things God gives us or has given us.

(Listen to answers; give feedback.)

Examples of answers from younger children:

Parents, food, homes, grandparents, pets, sunshine, the stars, animals, my goldfish, etc.

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Examples of answers from older children:

Love, integrity, justice, kindness, peace, joy, salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

What holiday is coming up soon? (*THANKSGIVING*)

When we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, we are setting aside a day to thank God for all the good things He has given to us. We can thank Him for things as simple as our pet goldfish or as big and wonderful as our salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

We can thank Him for anything good that we have received, because the Bible tells us that He has given us every good and perfect gift.

King David wrote: *“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.”*

One of the ways we can give thanks to God is to pray. Let’s pray and thank God for all the good things He has given us!

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all of the good and perfect gifts you have given us! We praise you for how good and loving you are!! Help us to make every day a day of thanksgiving!! AMEN

King David also wrote: *“I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.”*

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Activities

For Younger Students:

Turkey Handprints: *A “classic” and still a must-do Thanksgiving activity with young ones.*

Give each child a piece of either plain paper or construction paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches or larger).

Use crayons or washable markers to trace around the child’s outstretched hand on to the paper.

Then lift the hand. Connect the lines at the wrist area and you have the “body” for your turkey. Draw legs and turkey feet under the wrist. Draw an eye and a beak on the thumb to denote the head. Color the four fingers brightly to make the turkey “feathers”.

Have the students write something they are thankful for on each finger (you may have to write it for the younger students)

Write “Happy Thanksgiving” and “Give thanks to the LORD...” at the top of the page. Be sure to write down the child’s name and the date as these will become keepsakes .

The children may wish to draw in a landscape or extra things like a pilgrim’s hat on

For Older Students:

Have the children write out one or all of the Bible Verses for the day. Look up the verses in the Bible. Read them out loud. What verses precede and follow these verses in the Bible?

Memorize Psalm 136:1 and say it while hopping up and down, or while standing on one foot.

St. John's Church School
Old Testament - JSB Supplemental Lesson

Psalm 136:1 *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.*

Have the students make a list of things they are thankful for to share with their families on Thanksgiving Day.