

Learning to be thankful

Aim of the assembly

It is good to “practice the attitude of gratitude”! Not only is it polite to be thankful, it shows our appreciation for other people and their contribution to our lives. Most children do not take the time to think about the good things in their lives. The story of the ten lepers is a great illustration that we should not take our blessings for granted.

Saying “Thank you!” to God is a good starting point into developing prayer in a child’s life too.

Props needed:

Wrapped present, puppet and puppet screen, blackboard and chalk, lunchbox, large glass of coloured fluid, Video of “Jesus heals the ten lepers” from youtube.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVBZH8oRp0 or search on youtube for “Jesus heals ten lepers”

Intro

We come in and say to each other:

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!

That’s from the Bible, it is the beginning of Psalm 107, shall we say that together? Do you know that there is a whole book of songs and prayers in the Bible? The Bible does not just have stories, it has songs and prayers too. And for many, many years, these songs and prayers have been used by people all over the world. Do it as a response in three parts:

- Bob/Wendy: Give thanks to the Lord
- Bob and all boys, in a deep manly voice: For He is good
- Wendy and all the girls, in a beautiful voice: His love endures forever.

Repeat a few times!

Bob: So today we want to talk to you about being thankful. And about being thankful to God!

Present giving/ vote:

Wendy: We are going to act out a scene, can you help us please. When we stop, could you vote and tell us who is showing thankfulness? (Prop needed: Present in shiny paper)

- Giving a present to Bob, but he is not happy with the present at all, complaining and grumbling, bad attitude! / Now vote – good behaviour or bad?
- Bob receiving a present and being very grateful and happy, very thankful and expressing it.) / Now vote – good or bad behaviour? Vote after each scene!

Story from the Bible:

Bob: We've got a story from the Bible to show you, We actually found it a lego clip, it looks very cool. Who of you has ever done a lego stop animation film? Well, check this one out!

Bob after the video has been watched: So out of ten people, how many came back to say thank you? Only one! Let's watch it again and see what he said to Jesus... (Play video again...)

He said: Thank you so much Jesus! He is saying "Thank you!" Does that remind you of our verse for today? *Give thanks for the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever!*

Puppet skit: Baa-baara learns to be thankful for the meals

(Prop needed: blackboard to do numbers on)

Baa. (with catalogue and looking at a list of things she wants to have...)

Bob: Hi, Baa what are you doing?

Baa. I have not got enough toys and not enough shoes, and not enough books and not enough films.

Bob. Hmmh, you don't sound very happy to me!

Baa. I am NOT. I have virtually nothing and I need so much more things to make me HAPPY!

Bob. But Baa, you have so much... lovely wool, good ears, nice eyes...

Baa. But I have virtually nothing... and I am really not very happy at all!!!

Bob. Ok, Baa, let me try and help you look at things in a different way : Do you like food?

Baa. Yes, I do, very much!!!! (Baa disappears to get lunchbox, while Bob talks to children about food and meals...)

Bob. Ah, thank you for my lunch box! I am feeling hungry, but it can wait a moment...Shall we do a little bit of math together...how many meals do you have each day, breakfast, lunch and supper?

Baa: Yes, and sometimes a little extra too...

Bob: (Turns to the blackboard) Let me work this out...

So you have 3 meals a day, and there are 7 days a week: $3 \times 7 = 21$... that's a lot! So you actually have a lot of food, and it turns up at the right time every day and you enjoy eating it? Don't you think that that is a good reason to be thankful?

Baa: Yes, I think you are right. I like my food, and it is nice to have lots of it!

Bob: Baa and let me ask you something else. In the Jesus story, only one man came back to say "Thank you!" to God. Have you ever said "Thank you!" to God for all the food he lets you enjoy?

Baa: Nooo, not really...

Bob: Baa, you are looking very... sheepish now! Don't be sad, you can learn what to say to God to say thank you...

Baa: But I don't know what to say...

Bob: Well, the children could teach you something they have learned today...

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever.

You could say that, then add: Thank you for my yummy food! And say AMEN! And there you are, you have made your very own, special prayer!

Baa disappears and Bob gets his lunchbox, ready to eat. Wendy appears and tells him to say grace before he eats... he does not really know what to say, so she teaches him a special grace to say at mealtimes:

Teach grace: (with boom whackers or hand clapping where appropriate)

It goes like this...

FOR YOU AND FOR ME THE TABLE IS LAID :||

WE THANK YOU OUR GOD THAT THE FOOD IS GREAT, AMEN :||

SUM UP TODAYS MESSAGE

Bob: What are we saying today? It is good to be grateful... look at this glass here, what would you say? (Large glass, half full with fluid, better coloured, so that is easily visible) Is it half full or is half empty? Both is true in one sense, but a thankful person will look at the half full glass and be happy, while the grumpy person will think about the empty part.

Or look at this piece of paper here, do you mainly see the one black spot or do you see that most of the paper is white and perfectly ok to be used? (Big piece of white card with a little ink spot on it)

The secret is really this... (put on very big glasses), we learn to look in such a way that we see the good things in our lives. And we don't take them for granted. We realise that a lot of the good things just happen to us – just like a gift from God.

And then you might remember: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his love endures forever.

Wendy addressing the younger ones: (With a board that shows family, friends, home, sunshine and rain.)What are we thankful for? Our family, friends, home, sunshine and rain... all gifts of God to be grateful for... END WITH PRAYER