

Vacation Church School

Virtues Unit 2

Lesson: Thankfulness

He "... hath called us to glory and virtue."

2 Peter 1:3

Goals: By the end of class the child should be able to:

1. Know the word "Thankfulness"
2. Remember God wants us to be thankful for the gifts He has given.
3. Understand what Thankfulness means.
4. Know the scripture verse (by the end of week)

Vocabulary: *(for week)*

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|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Excellence | 4. Politeness | 7. Book of Mormon |
| 2. Thankfulness | 5. Joyfulness | 8. Virtue |
| 3. Friendship | 6. Bible | 9. Glory |

Materials Needed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Book of Mormon</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> candy | <input type="checkbox"/> glue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marker | <input type="checkbox"/> flower stickers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KEEP BOX | <input type="checkbox"/> green ribbon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fun Foam: green, yellow, brown, pink, purple | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Items for "I Have Virtues Book" | |

Preparation:

1. *Scripture Activity:*
 - a. Assemble Virtue book (1 per child per week)
2. *Introduction Activity:*
 - a. candy
3. *Review Activity:*
 - a. Have "Tree of Blessings" pieces already cut out (see sample in KEEP BOX)

Introduction Activity: What do you say?

Hand children some candy, if they don't say "thank you" remind them by saying "what do you say?" This will encourage children to think of it on their own

Now, why did you say "Thank you" to me when I gave you the candy? *Let children respond...*

Very good, when people do things nice for you, you should say thank you. That lets them know you liked what they did and they were nice.

Story: Squirrel Says Thank You *(read in book)*

Discussion:

What is Thankfulness? *Let children respond...*

Help them to the understanding that it is realizing the blessing God has given us and Thanking God for them.

Has God ever given you anything? *Let children respond... encourage to remember many of the blessings, mom's and dad's, house, toys, food, etc.*

Yes, God has given us a lot of things. We are very happy and thankful God has blessed us with those gifts. When God blesses us, we should say thank you to Him. Just like you said thank you to me, when I gave you some candy.

Let's take some time to say thank you to God. Does anyone know how we can do that? Yes, in a prayer. I am going to say a prayer now, I want you to bow your heads and thank God for what he has given you too!

Say a quick prayer thanking the Lord for all the gifts in our life. Use things that relate to the children.

Review Activity: Tree of Blessings

Have children create their tree of blessing. If time allows let them choose what they want to be written. (For bigger classes, it may be more time efficient to have some blessings already written on flowers) Each tree should have child's name on back, so it can go home with the child at the end of the week.

Scripture Activity:

Holding the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon.

There are lots of scriptures in the Bible and Book of Mormon that talk about how we should live our life. In order to be good like Jesus we must have virtues. One of the virtues is Thankfulness.

Jesus wants us to do say "thank you" to others when they do nice things for us. But He also wants us to remember when He does things for us. We should always remember to say "Thank You" to our Lord.

Let's read the page in our "I have Virtues Book"

Read pages together then let children decorate Truthfulness page of "I Have Virtues" book with flower stickers.

Use any extra time for outside unstructured play

"Tree of Blessings"

PREPERATION:

1. Use the pattern in KEEP BOX to trace onto fun foam. (This makes one tree)
2. Cut ribbon on 5 inch lengths.
3. On the colored flower alternate with blessings: parents, family, food, pets, etc.

DIRECTIONS:

1. With a pen or marker, write something you are blessed with on one side of each foam magnolia flower.
2. Glue the foam tree to the foam tree trunk as shown on sample. Glue the foam magnolia flowers to the tree and allow to dry.
3. Glue both ends of the green ribbon to the top backside of the tree. Allow to dry completely before hanging.

*** If possible you can purchase this project from Oriental Trading Company. Product #48/3749 "Tree of Blessings" Craft Kit***