

Give

Thanks

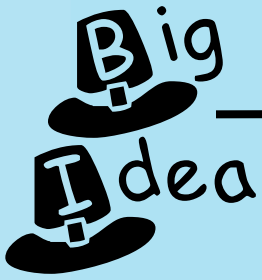
Week One

Give thanks with
your words.

Week Two

Give thanks with
your actions.





Give thanks with your actions.

What you need:

- Big Idea Slide
- A Thank you card
- Small gift box
- Useless trivia slides

What It Is: The Big Idea is the central theme of the lesson. Say this with the kids often and have them repeat it at different times through the service. Parents ask kids two things about their children's church experience; *Did you have fun?* and *What did you learn?* Make sure each child has a fun experience and that they learn the Big Idea so they can repeat it in an instant.

What you say & What you do: Last week we learned that we need to Give thanks with our words. Today we will take that a step further. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday and had lots and lots of turkey. I know that I like Thanksgiving because it causes me to stop and think about how blessed I really am. How many of you took some time around Thanksgiving dinner to talk about what you are thankful for with your family and friends? (kids respond) Today our Big Idea is *Give thanks with your actions*. I hope and pray that our thankful words are not only limited to this season. I would like for us to learn that if we have a grateful heart then we will say thanks more often, but, even more than that we will show thanks by our actions. I would like to talk to you about some things that many people do to show they are thankful with their actions. **Hold up the thank you card in one hand and the gift box in your other hand.** Can anyone tell me what these are? (kids respond) That's right. I have a thank you card in this hand and small gift in this hand. **Put down the gift box and hold up the thank you card.** I am going to lay down this gift box for a minute and talk to you about his thank you card. Thank you cards are a way that many of your parents or maybe even you have used to say thank you. Thank you cards have not been around forever though. Did you know that if you were going to write a thank you note 50 years ago it had to be on a certain type of expensive paper or it didn't mean as much. The thank you note was also thought to be more thoughtful if it had a really fancy writing. Today you can walk into any store and find a thank you card with a cool sayings and creative ways to say thanks. So next time someone does something super nice for you, write them a note or get them a thank you card to show your thankful with your actions. **Put down the thank you card and pick up the gift box.** Now let's take a minute to talk about another action that people do to show they are thankful. They give gifts. How many of you have recieved a gift because of something you have done? (kids respond) How about a gift or cash for making "A's" on your report card? (kids respond) That is your parents way of saying thanks for doing a great job in school. Gifts are great. Flowers and chocolate are just a couple of gifts that come to mind when you think of gifts that say thanks. Here is some useless trivia for you concerning how people in other countries show they are thankful and some tips on what not to do in case you ever visit these places.

Japan:

- Never open gifts in front of the giver. (We always tear right into our gifts)
- Use lightly colored paper to wrap gifts
- Give a thank you note for the gift immediately and in writing

Mexico:

- Don't give yellow flowers, they signify death
- Don't give knives, they mean that you are cutting off the friendship

China:

- Don't give someone a clock, it reminds them that time is passing
- Refuse a gift 3 times and then accept reluctantly (act like you still don't want it)

Well there is your useless trivia concerning gifts of gratitude. Gratitude means that we feel grateful or thankful. So whether you are giving a gift or writing a thank you card make sure you try to have a thankful heart. If your heart is thankful then your actions will follow. Let's go over the Big Idea a few times so we can remember it. **Have the kids say the Big Idea with you a few times until you are comfortable they have memorized it.**

-Teaching Tip-
What you say is in regular font. This is your script for teaching.
What you do is in bold font. This is how you physically present the material.
Have Fun!



Memory Verse

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. **Colossians 3:17**

What you need:

- Slide with the Verse
- This Sheet

What It Is: The Memory Verse is your chance to give the kids something to hide in their hearts. By teaching the verse and doing an activity that will help them remember you are preparing them for life's obstacles.

What you say & What you do: Put the slide with the memory verse on the screen. Today's verse tells us that our words and our deeds, which are our actions, should reflect Jesus in our lives. It goes on to say that we need to do all these things with a grateful attitude and a thankful heart. It is one thing to say thanks, but it is another step to show that we are thankful with our actions. Remember our Big Idea today is *Give thanks with your actions*. Today's verse activity is going to give us a chance to do a lot of "action" as we learn our verse. Let's learn this verse together and try our best to live what it says. **Say the verse several times having the children repeat it before moving on to the activity.** Great job now let's get down to business with today's verse activity.

Verse Activity

Truth or Consequence

What you need:

- The Bible verse written in sections of about five words each on duplicate pieces of paper that can be cut out and folded up and placed inside five balloons per team.
- 20 balloons
- Four volunteers
- Two trash bags

What you say & What you do: Write five duplicate consequences on pieces of paper to put into the remaining five balloons per team. For example, do 10 jumping jacks, run in place until you count to 20 out loud, go tell your pastor or teacher how awesome they are. So, each team of two should have 10 balloons placed in a trash bag in front of them. Explain to the teams that they are going to race to see who can find the pieces of the memory verse and place them in the correct order the fastest. They have to choose a balloon from the bag and pop it. If they find a balloon with a consequence in it, they have to follow it's instructions on the paper before choosing another balloon. The first team to complete the task wins! Choose wisely!!!



Illustration & Message

Week Two

The Old Man and the Seagulls

What you need:

- Slide with Illustration title
- Your Bible turned to Psalms 100
- Your Anointing

What It Is: The illustration is a modern day story or parable that will allow the children in your ministry to relate to the lesson in a more practical way. The message should always bring the children to a response at the altar or in their hearts.

What you say & What you do: The Bible is full of stories when someone has shown their thankfulness through their actions. The story of Zaccheus was one of these examples. I would like to tell you a story of how a little old man showed his gratitude to seagulls...that's right seagulls.

Back in the 1970's there was an old man that every Friday at sunset would visit a small pier on the eastern coast of Florida. Every time he visited he brought a large bucket of shrimp with him. This was not unusual because many brought shrimp to the pier to use for fishing. However, this old man whose name was Eddie Rickenbacker, was not fishing with the shrimp. He would walk out to the end of the pier and feed every last shrimp to seagulls that gathered around him. This was his tradition and it was his way of saying thanks for something that happened years before. Captain Eddie served in World War 2 on a B-17 Bomber, also known as the Flying Fortress. He and his crew were on a mission to deliver an important message to General MacArthur when their plane was lost in a storm. The plane was running low on fuel and was out of reach of any radio. The crew decided to crash the plane into the ocean. So they parachuted out with their life raft and their emergency food rations. The raft was only 7 ft by 9 ft and much of their food was damaged by the sea water. For several days the men sat in their little raft being terrorized by sharks and running low on food. After 8 days their food was gone and their spirits were downcast. Another member of the crew, Captain William Cherry, brought the men together for some encouragement. They had a time of devotion and prayer and asked God to somehow help them in this situation that seemed so hopeless. After the service at sea, Captain Cherry and the others settled in to wait for God's answer. Captain Cherry pulled his hat down over his eyes and began to fall asleep when he felt something on his head. He looked at the other men to see all of them staring at him. Captain Cherry realized that there was a seagull that had just landed on his head. If he were able to catch it, they would have food. Captain Cherry reached up and grabbed the bird and the men had a little food from the bird and they were able to use the rest of the bird for bait to catch fish. The men survived for a few more days and were rescued. That is why every Friday an old man feeds a bucket of shrimp to the seagulls on an small pier in Florida. To say thanks with his actions for God had done for him one day and how God had used a seagull to meet his needs.

That story is a little gross, huh? The reality is that it was a miracle that the seagull was even out there. Seagulls can only go so far out to sea. They have to have a place to land. This seagull that was found by these men was alone and several hundred miles out. God sent this bird to answer their prayers. In the same way, God will answer your prayers today. In the story we just learned that an old man fed seagulls for many years to show his gratitude. The challenge for us today is to live a life of gratitude. Thanksgiving should not be the only time we reflect about the blessings in our live. We can spend the whole year saying thanks with our actions to God, our parents and others. We learned in our Small Group Session today how we can do things to show thanks no matter what age or how much money we have. There are things we can do starting today to *Give thanks with our actions*. Let's pray.
Have prayer time.

Teaching Tip
It is suggested to use your Bible when reading the passages to reinforce to the kids in your ministry how God's Word holds the answers to life's questions.



Week Two Schedule



chedule

5 min

Welcome & Opening Prayer

10 min

The Big Idea

15 min

Memory Verse & Verse Activity

10 min

Praise & Worship - Insert your own music here

5min

Offering & Visitors

10 min

Bible Story

20 min

Small Group Session

10 min

Illustration & Message

5 to 15 min

Gratitude Game



Schedule is only for your convenience. Please feel free to tweek it as you like for your ministry.