



Faithful People Thank God for Jesus

Luke 2:22-40

Third- and fourth-graders tend to be self-centered. Their world involves a small number of players: Mom and Dad, siblings, and a few friends. At this stage in their development, they're the center of their universe. A little joke at a family meal or a well-told story at a party can make them the center of attention. Moving them out of the center of their universe can be difficult. They might have a hard time understanding why Jesus deserves to be the center of attention. So before they can learn how to show thanks for Jesus, they need to understand the reasons we show thanks for Jesus. Use this lesson to help kids understand what thankfulness is and how they can express that thankfulness for Jesus.



Bible Point
We thank God for Jesus.
.....

Key Verse
"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4).
.....

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will learn ways to show thanks to God.
.....

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Thank You <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game in which they share ways to say thank you.	chairs	Place a chair for each person in a circle.
2 Bible Exploration	Meeting Simeon and Anna <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Explore what happened when Jesus and his parents visited the Temple.	Bibles, copy of the "Temple Visit" handout (at the end of this lesson), scissors	Cut apart the 3 sections of the "Temple Visit" handout.
	Psalm 148 <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Read about, look at, and act out how creation praises God.	Bibles Teacher Pack: "Psalm 148 Praise" poster	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

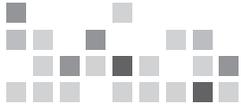




LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Thank-You Card <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make a thank-you card for Jesus to present at the altar.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, crayons, markers, several pairs of scissors, pens Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.</p>
	<p>Thanking Jesus! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse and plan ways to show thanks to Jesus during the week.</p>	<p>CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Thank You Supplies

.....
chairs

Thank You Easy Prep

.....
Place a chair for each
person in a circle.

1 GETTING STARTED

Thank You

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids take a seat in the chair circle. Invite a willing child to stand in the center of the circle, and then remove his or her chair.

To the child in the middle, say: **Tell one way you've shown thanks to someone. For example, you could say, "I show thanks by helping my mom clean the kitchen after she cooks my dinner." Or "I say thanks when someone lets me play in a game at school."**

Say to everyone: **After the person in the middle says his or her thank-you statement, everyone must act that out as they move to a new chair that is at least two chairs away from your current seat. Since we're short one chair, the person left without a chair will go to the middle and we'll continue the game.**

After several kids have shared their thank-you ideas, replace the missing chair and have kids sit down.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do we show thanks in different ways for different things?
- Why is it disappointing or even hurtful when someone forgets to thank you?
- Why do you think it's important to thank others?

Say: **We can express our thanks to people in many ways. Today we'll learn about the different ways two people expressed their thanks for Jesus, and we'll explore how ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.**





2

**BIBLE
EXPLORATION**

Meeting Simeon and Anna

What You'll Do

Say: **Jesus and his family are very special. Jesus is God's Son who came to live here on earth. His parents were named Mary and Joseph. Jesus' birth was an exciting time filled with good news, hope, and celebration. News about Jesus' birth traveled fast, and people were excited! Today we'll look at how two people responded when they met little Jesus face to face.**

Have kids form three groups, and give each group several Bibles and one of the sections of the "Temple Visit" handout.

Say: **Read the Bible passage listed on your paper, and then discuss and answer the question. You'll share with everyone what happened in the Bible passage you read and also the answer to your question.**

Allow kids five minutes to read and discuss their Bible passage. Then invite a willing child from each group to share, going in numerical order.

Say: **We've discovered that in one way or another, everyone in the Bible showed they were thankful for Jesus. Mary and Joseph showed their thanks by obeying God and presenting Jesus at the Temple. Simeon showed his thanks by taking Jesus in his arms and praising God. And Anna showed her thanks by telling other people about Jesus.**

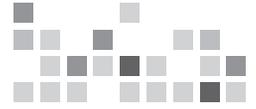
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **After learning why Simeon and Anna were thankful for Jesus, what new thoughts do you have on why we can be thankful for Jesus?**
- **Simeon and Anna had a powerful experience meeting Jesus. Tell about an experience you've had that made you really thankful for Jesus.**

Say: ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS by praising him and telling others about him the way Simeon and Anna did.**



Meeting Simeon and Anna Supplies

.....
Bibles
copy of the "Temple Visit" handout (at the end of this lesson)
scissors

Meeting Simeon and Anna Easy Prep

.....
Cut apart the 3 sections of the "Temple Visit" handout.





Psalm 148 Supplies

.....
Bibles
Teacher Pack
"Psalm 148 Praise"
poster

Psalm 148

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Now let's look at one other passage in the Bible that tells us about showing thanks to God. One way we show thanks to God is by praising him. Praise is the way we show honor and thanks to God through our worship, words, attitudes, and actions. In Psalm 148 we can read about all creation praising the Lord.**

Have kids sit in a circle, and make sure everyone has a Bible. Help them find Psalm 148 in their Bibles. Place the "Psalm 148 Praise" poster in the center of the circle. As you read it aloud, pause after a few verses and have children talk about the pictures shown on the poster that match with what you just read from the psalm. You can ask kids to say why they're thankful for one of the items shown on the poster or other things from creation that the psalm talks about. Kids can also share thoughts about how those parts of creation can bring praise to God. Continue reading the psalm as above, pausing every few verses to discuss the words or pictures.

Say: **We can give thanks to God using words as we've done. Now let's use our actions as I read this psalm again. Be creative as you think of ways to act out the praises you hear.**

Read Psalm 148 again, pausing to allow kids time to act out what they hear.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Tell about the things on the poster or anything else you'd like to praise God for.**
- **When you look at nature—things like water, the moon, trees, and birds—what do those amazing or beautiful things around do to give you reason to praise God?**
- **How are praise and thanks similar? different?**

Say: ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS through our praises, such as Simeon did. We can sing praises or praise him through prayer. We can tell others about Jesus, such as Anna did, or invite people to learn about him at church. Let's praise God for Jesus right now!**





3

WEAVING FAITH
INTO LIFE

Thank-You Card

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have available crayons, markers, and scissors. Say: **Find the "Thank-You Card" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages. One way to show our thanks is to write a thank-you card. We use cards to thank people for gifts or for doing something nice for us. Just as Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna showed thanks to God for Jesus, we can thank God for Jesus right now.**

To begin, cut out and then color or decorate the thank-you card. Allow time. Under the words "Thank you, God, for" on the inside of the card, you can write words or draw something that shows your thanks and praise to Jesus. You might include things such as your family, the freedom to go to church, or the freedom to celebrate Jesus' birth.

As kids work on the craft, play "Thankful" (track 7 on the CD).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about the things or people you thank God for.
- How can you use your thank-you card to guide your prayers and thanks to God?

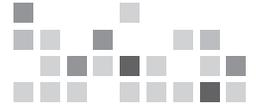
Say: We have many things in our lives we can be thankful for and show our thanks to God. The greatest gift God's ever given any of us is Jesus. Simeon and Anna knew Jesus was the greatest reason to give God thanks even when he was still only a young child. They'd heard the great news about who Jesus was. Today, ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS**, too, because that good news is *still* good news! Let's show God thanks for Jesus in another way—by singing a song of praise.

Thanking Jesus!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Today we saw how different people expressed their thanks for Jesus. ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS** too, and we've thought of ways to do that today. One of the ways we can show our thanks for Jesus that we haven't done yet today is by singing a song to God. Let's do that now.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "His Love Endures Forever" (Psalm 100:4-5) (track 8 on the CD). Lead the kids in singing.



Thank-You Card Supplies

-
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- CD player
- crayons
- markers
- several pairs of scissors
- pens
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Thankful" (track 7)

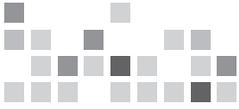
Thank-You Card Easy Prep

-
- Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Thanking Jesus! Supplies

-
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "His Love Endures Forever" (Psalm 100:4-5) (track 8)





(Chorus)

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving
And his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name,
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.**

(Repeat chorus.)

**His faithfulness continues
Through every generation.
He is faithful.
He is faithful,
And I will praise him
For as long as I live.
He is faithful;
He is faithful.**

(Sing chorus 2x.)

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving
And his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name,
For the Lord is good and his love endures.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.**

“His Love Endures Forever” (Psalm 100:4-5) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **The words to this song are also our Key Verse for the week.** Have kids form pairs.
Say: **Repeat our Key Verse, Psalm 100:4, with your partner: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” (Psalm 100:4).**

After kids have had a chance to say the Key Verse to each other, have them form two lines so kids in one line face their partner in the other line. Repeat the Key Verse as a group.

Say: **One at a time, each person will walk down the center of the two lines and say or show thanks. You can applaud or do some other action to show your thanks for Jesus. Ready? Pause. Go!** Do this until everyone’s had a turn.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

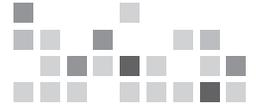
Ask:

- **Of all the different ways we’ve shown thanks today, what have been your favorite ways? Why?**
- **Think of something you enjoy doing. How can you use that talent or activity to thank God?**





Say: **Just as Simeon, Anna, Mary, and Joseph did, ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS in many ways. Let's choose one way to keep doing that this week.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's decide this week on ways ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **When someone helps you or is kind to you this week, thank him or her and then tell about why you're also thankful for Jesus.**
- **Put your thank-you card where you'll see it every day and remember to thank God for sending Jesus.**
- **Every day this week, write or draw one reason you're glad God sent Jesus to be in your life.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **It'll make God very happy to hear our praise and thanks, just as he heard Simeon and Anna's. Let's remember that ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

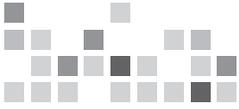
Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about the different ways to thank God for Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids.

Say: Choose one way you'd like to thank God for Jesus right now—such as simply saying, “thank you, God,” singing, clapping, cheering, or anything you'd like to do. In a moment I'll start a prayer and then when I cue you, you can show your thanks to God in the way you've chosen. Let's see if we can make a big, happy noise for God.

Pray: Dear God, we thank you for your Son, Jesus, and we thank you now each in our own special way... Invite kids to make their thankful noise or action. That's a noise of praise and thanks to you, God. In Jesus' name, amen.





Temple Visit



1. **Luke 2:22-24**—What about the things Mary and Joseph did showed they were thankful for Jesus?



2. **Luke 2:25-32**—What about the things Simeon said and did after seeing Jesus showed he thanked God for Jesus?

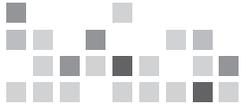


3. **Luke 2:36-40**—Anna told others how special Jesus was. Why do you think that shows she was thankful for Jesus?



 **OK
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Lyrics

His Love Endures Forever (Psalm 100:4-5)

(Chorus)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
And his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name,
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.

(Repeat chorus.)

His faithfulness continues
Through every generation.
He is faithful.
He is faithful,
And I will praise him
For as long as I live.
He is faithful;
He is faithful.

(Sing chorus 2x.)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
And his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name,
For the Lord is good and his love endures.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.

"His Love Endures Forever" (Psalm 100:4-5) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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