

THANKSGIVING



THINK ABOUT IT:

What can you give God thanks for?

Introduction

Ask the children what holiday is approaching (Thanksgiving). Have the children share some of their Thanksgiving traditions. Say, “Thanksgiving is not only a time to be with our families and eat good food, but it’s also a time to stop and say thank you to God for the good things in our lives.”

Message

1. Say, “Today we are going to think about all the things you can thank God for.”
2. Say, “In the Bible, there was someone who was very thankful and wrote many poems and songs to express his thanks to God. That person was David, one of Israel’s great leaders. Before he was a leader, he was a shepherd. (Show the visual of David as a shepherd). One of David’s most well-known poems, Psalm 23, is written as if God is the shepherd and David is the sheep. Listen for the things David is thankful for.”
3. Read Psalm 23.
4. Ask, “What are some of the things you heard that David was thankful for?” (green pastures, water, comfort, being with God).
5. Say, “One verse read ‘my cup overflows.’ David must have felt so thankful for all the things God had done for him that he felt like a cup overflowing. Let’s see what that might look like.”
6. Tell the children to think of something they are thankful God has given them.
7. Set up the cups in a pyramid, open end up.
8. Ask the children to share their ideas and as they do, slowly pour the water into the top cup. Keep pouring so the water runs over and into the next cup. Keep pouring until the kids run out of ideas or until the water hits the tray.



SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Three glass jars
- Tray
- Pitcher of water
- Thank You card for each child to personalize
- Visual - David as a shepherd *

* Available in the Member Toolbox



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verse

**IDEA!**

Instead of playing the Thanksgiving memory game, simply go around the table and encourage the children to say one thing they are thankful for.

**IDEA!**

Add food coloring to the water for some fun and better visibility

**EXTRA TIME**

Make an ABC list of things the children are thankful for!

9. Say, "In small group you'll explore more about what you can give God thanks for."

Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Ask, "How is God like a shepherd for us?" (*protects, cares for us*)
2. Ask, "What does a shepherd do for his sheep?" (*protects, cares for, feeds*)
3. Read Psalm 23:1.
4. Say, "The verse says because the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Does this mean we'll have everything we want? (no) What does it mean?" (*God give us what we need*)
5. Play a Thanksgiving memory game. The first person says their name and one thing they are thankful for.
6. The second person must say the first person's name and the thing they are thankful for and then add their own name and something they are thankful for.
7. Go around until everyone has had a chance.
8. Pray. Thank God for all of the many things He has given to us.
9. Give each child a Thank You card and a pencil. The children can decorate and personalize their cards to thank someone.