

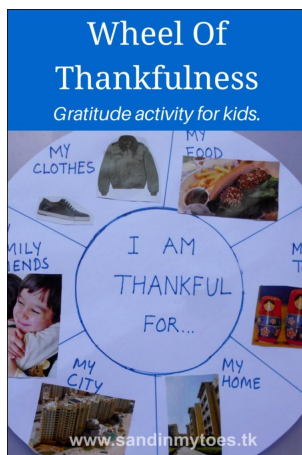
Thanksgiving Party Plan

Crossroads Kids Club

<p>Goals</p>	<p>Students see the value in practicing thankfulness even through difficult seasons.</p> <p>“Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NLT).</p>
<p>Special note</p>	<p>This is a great opportunity to encourage the students to invite friends to Crossroads.</p>

Welcome and Opening Activities (10-15 minutes)

Craft: Thankfulness Wheel (8-10 minutes)



Leaders: Prepare your own Thankfulness Wheel¹ and introduce it to the students by sharing the things that you are thankful for. Tell the students they will be making their own Thankfulness Wheel. (Use Handout 2 for template).

Students will cut a large circle (wheel) out of a sheet of construction paper. Use the template from the handout, and allow them to trace their circle before cutting.

In the center, students will draw a circle and write “I am thankful for . . .” Divide the outside of the wheel into several sections and label each with words and/or pictures to show things, people, places, etc. that they are thankful for. Students may use a ruler if necessary to separate the sections of the wheel.

Optional: Give students old magazines, grocery ads, or mailers and allow them to cut out images and glue.

Large Group Time (15-20 minutes)

Open by asking the students, ***What is the holiday of Thanksgiving all about?*** (Call on volunteers. Answers will vary). ***Do you know what the word Thanksgiving means?*** (Break apart the word “Thanks” and “Giving.” It means to give thanks!).

¹ Image from: <http://www.sandinmytoes.tk/2015/11/busy-hands-wheel-of-thankfulness-for-kids.html>

God tells us in his Word that it is good to give thanks. Today, we are going to learn about the story of a man in the Bible who knew what giving thanks really means.

Present the story of the ten lepers from Luke 17:11-17. Assign the following roles to students and/or leaders: ten lepers, Jesus, priest.

Instruct students that the story will be staged as a tableau, meaning that the story will be broken down into scenes that will be shown as a “freeze frame.” The actors in the story will not talk, but will freeze like statues. The narrator will tell the story, and instruct the audience to use their eyes for a curtain. The narrator will say “curtain up” and the audience must open their eyes, and they must close their eyes when they hear “curtain down.” (If your students have never done this before, pause and practice “curtain up” and “curtain down” a couple of times.)

While the audience’s eyes are closed (after the narrator says “curtain down”), the narrator will quickly and silently direct the actors into position for the next freeze frame. When the students hear “curtain up” and open their eyes to see the story scene in freeze frame, allow four to five seconds for them to capture the image before instructing “curtain down.”

Jesus and the Ten Lepers from Luke 17:11-17

Narrator: CURTAIN DOWN. Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

CURTAIN UP! (Freeze Frame: Jesus in a walking position) CURTAIN DOWN!

Narrator: As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

CURTAIN UP! (Freeze Frame: Ten lepers kneeled down in front of Jesus, begging, crying). CURTAIN DOWN!

Narrator: When Jesus saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.”

CURTAIN UP! (Freeze Frame: Jesus pointing toward the priest on the opposite end of the stage area) CURTAIN DOWN!

Narrator: And as they went, they were cleansed.

CURTAIN UP! (Freeze Frame: Lepers are smiling, amazed, hands in the air, joyful!) CURTAIN DOWN!

Narrator: One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

CURTAIN UP! (Freeze Frame: One leper has come back to Jesus and is kneeling in front of him, grateful, overjoyed) CURTAIN DOWN!

Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?”

CURTAIN UP! (Freeze Frame: Jesus holds out hands in a questioning stance, while the other nine lepers are positioned as if running/walking away the opposite direction, completely ignoring Jesus). CURTAIN DOWN!

End scene

Ask students:

- How did Jesus bless the ten men? (He healed them.)
- How do you think they felt when they were healed? (Answers will vary.)
- How many of the men came back to Jesus? (One) Why did he come back? (He came back to thank him.)
- Why do you think the other nine didn't come back to say thank you? (Answers will vary.)

Say, ***“The Bible teaches us that we should thank God for his blessings. If we love Jesus, we will have an attitude of thanksgiving like the leper who came back to Jesus, rather than the nine who didn't. This story reminds us that many times, we forget to thank God. We don't think about the good things that he has done for us or the blessings he's given us. It's easy to think more about the things that we want or don't have than it is to stop and be thankful for what God has already given us. What are some blessings we have for which to thank God today?”*** (Leaders share general or personal examples.)

Say, ***“We usually remember these things and say thanks at Thanksgiving, but God's Word tells us to remember and be grateful for God's blessings all the time!”***

Large Group Games (25-30 minutes)

T-H-A-N-K-F-U-L Memory Race

Divide students into three to five teams and have each team form a line. Make print outs of Handout 1 (with the letters T-H-A-N-K-F-U-L), one set for each team that you will have in play. For example, if you have five teams, you will need five of each letter. Mix up all the letters and place them face down all over the floor over your playing area.

To play, the first player from each team runs to find one of the letters from the word, THANKFUL. They should find the T first, then the H, and so on. Each player can turn over one letter per turn. If it's not the correct letter, they need to turn it back over and run back to their team, tagging the next player to go. If they find the correct letter, they take it back to their team and tag off to the next player in line. Have each team lay the letters out on the ground as they collect each one and begin to spell out the word THANKFUL. Play continues like this until all teams complete the word.

Pumpkin Ring Toss

Materials:

- 3-4 medium or small sized pumpkins
- 3 rings
- permanent marker
- scoreboard

Set up the pumpkins on one side of the room in any arrangement. On each pumpkin, write the score value of 100, 200, 300, etc. Have students form two teams and get in two lines. One student from each team will take turns tossing rings to gain points for their team. Choose a leader or student volunteer to keep score for each team on a sheet of chart paper, whiteboard, or poster board.

Small Group Time (15 minutes)

Remembering our Blessings

Pass out copies of Handout 3: Gratitude Journal. Remind students that God's Word commands his followers to be thankful all the time! Thankfulness should be our attitude every day. But since it's easy to forget, it can be helpful to have reminders of our blessings so that we can remember to thank God for them. Challenge them to try and think of a blessing every day that makes them thankful or happy and record it in a Gratitude Journal. Instruct them to fill in the box each day with words or pictures. Let them fill out the Day 1 box and share with the group what they wrote or drew.

Blessed to be a Blessing

Ask, "Why do you think God blesses us?" (Call on volunteers.)

Say, ***God blesses us because he loves us. He has compassion and mercy on us just like he did with the ten lepers. But God also has another important purpose in blessing his children. Let's read from God's Word and discover what that purpose is.***

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11. Ask,

- According to this verse, why does God give us blessings that overflow?
- What does it mean to multiply a blessing?
- How can you be generous to others?
- Why does God want us to be generous to others?

Say, ***God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others! God wants everyone on earth to know his name and his goodness. He does that through his people, the church. When he blesses you and I with good things, he wants you to use those blessings to share with others so that more people all over the earth will praise him.***

Pray/discuss ways that you can serve or give to others as a club or as a small group. Can you donate money, food or toys to people in need? Can you write a letters of thanks or

encouragement to a pastor, teacher or missionary? Brainstorm together, and follow up on any idea that may be a relevant, practical way for your club or small group to put into action.

Close in prayer together, ***Lord, thank you for your many blessings. Help me to remember to have an attitude of thankfulness. Help me to be a blessing to others. Amen.***

Handout 1: T-H-A-N-K-F-U-L Letter Printouts

T

H

A

N

K

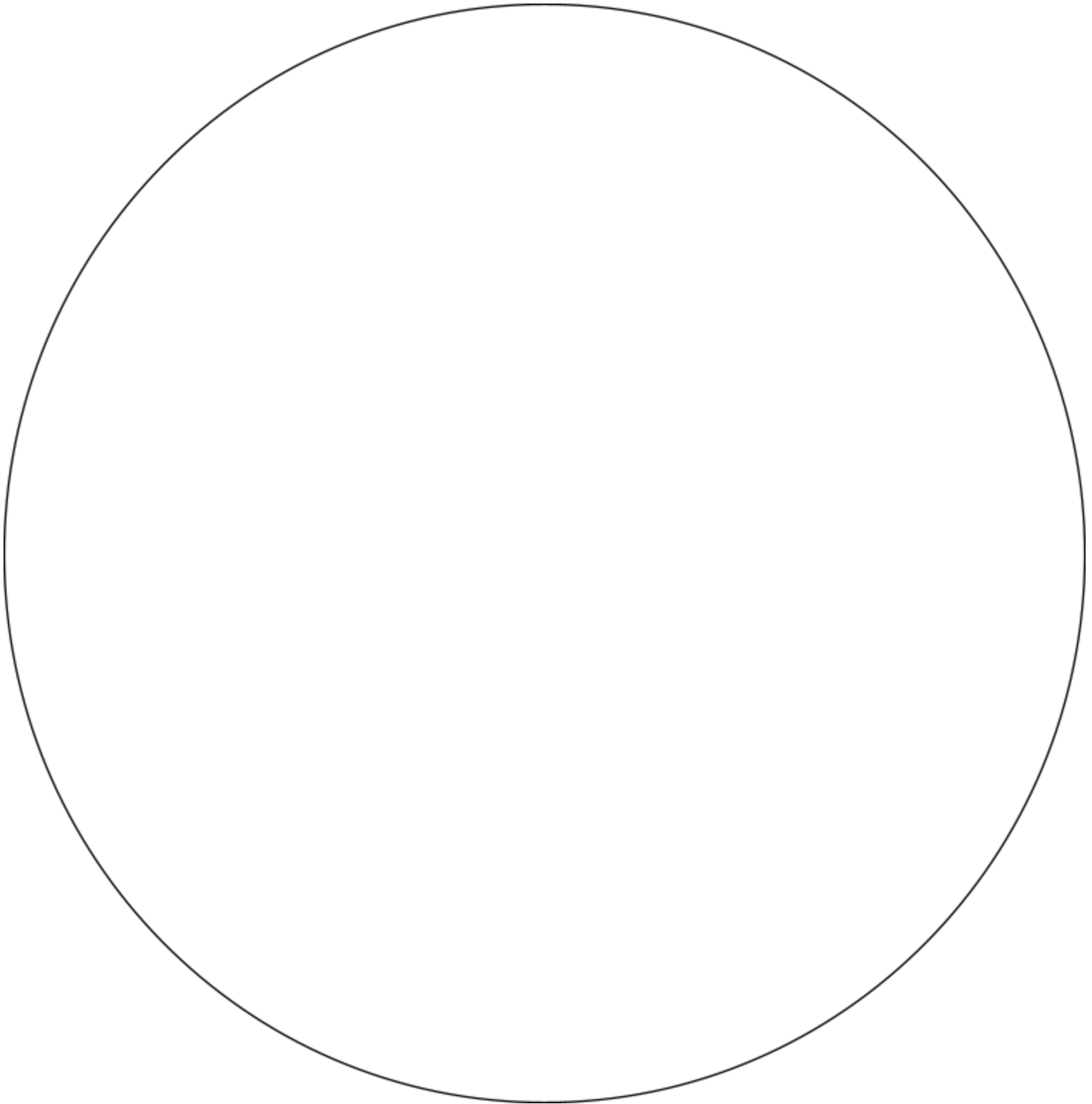
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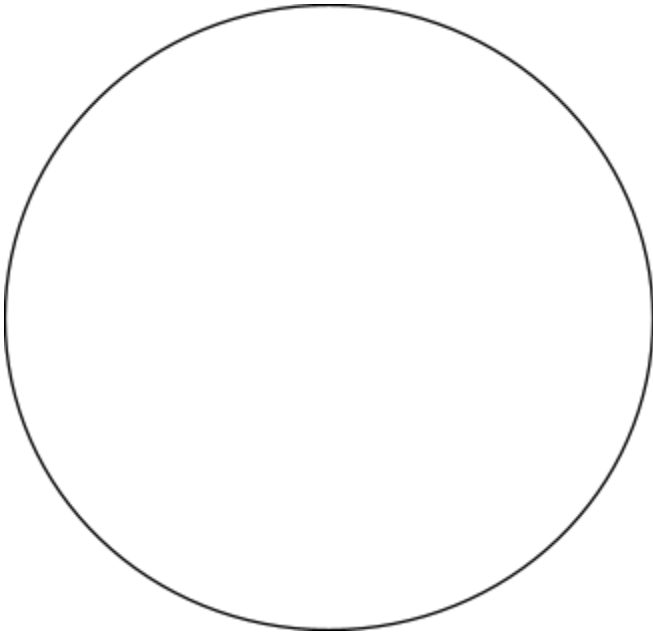
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Handout 2: Circle Template

Cut out and use to trace on construction paper.





Handout 3: Gratitude Journal

MY GRATITUDE JOURNAL
I WILL BE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS!

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

DAY 6

DAY 7

DAY 8