

Power of Words

The Practice of Gratitude - Thanksgiving (Part 3)

Lesson by Michelle Jeannot

Goal: For the children to practice saying what they're thankful for and expressing why

Power Phrase: I have a thankful heart!

Materials: music player, coloring page (next page)

Memory Verse: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 118:1

Lesson: Today we are going to read another Bible story about how even Jesus gave thanks to God, and how thanksgiving was followed by miracles.

- ★ Have children follow along or read from John 11:17-27 & 38-44

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

- ★ We can see from this second story that when Jesus gave thanks, it made room for a miracle to happen! Jesus knew who He was as God's Son. He knew God's heart for life and He spoke with words of power and authority. Remember, God's words are **living, active and powerful!**
- ★ What must that have been like for Lazarus to be raised from the dead? He was given NEW LIFE! Lazarus had something to be thankful for that day... and every day! Just like Lazarus, Jesus has given us new life in God. He has forgiven our sins and paid the price for us! Not only have we been saved, but God has blessed us with so much!

Discussion:

1. Think of a time when someone told you that they loved and appreciated you. How did that make you feel?
2. Think of something or someone that you are thankful for. WHY are you thankful for it/them?
For young children or language learners, providing a sentence fragment may help them. For example, "I am thankful for _____ because _____."

Activity: Children can watch and participate in singing and doing hand motions to [this Thankful song](#) or they can make up their own song and motions about thankfulness.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank You for giving me so many things to be thankful for! Every good thing in my life comes from You. Help me to have a thankful heart in every situation. Help me to remember that You love me and are always taking care of me. Amen.

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