

KINDERGARTEN

God Loves Us



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Thanking Is Good

On Thanksgiving Day,
we say **thank you**
with a special meal.

We hear and say
the words **thank you**
every day.

The words **thank you**
tell people how
we feel.

Saying **thank you**
makes people happy.





Father, We Thank You

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
Father, we thank you.

For tender grass so fresh and sweet,
Father, we thank you.

For songs of birds and humming of bees,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank you.

Author Unknown

**We thank God for many gifts.
Thank you, God.**





Try This

Think about the gifts that God gives you.



Draw a circle around the pictures of God's gifts.

Thank God for these wonderful gifts.



Scripture

Always be thankful.

Based on Colossians 3:15-17



We give you thanks, Lord, for you are good.

Based on Psalm 136:1

Thanksgiving in Families

The Lesson Your Child Learned

In giving thanks to God, we acknowledge that all things have been created by him, belong to him, and come to us through his goodness. Thanksgiving provides an occasion for families to reflect and to express gratitude.

Mealtime is a daily opportunity to pray together. In this chapter the children talked about special times when we thank God. They discovered that thank-yous are for every day. They began to memorize the traditional grace before meals and colored a prayer card for their tables at home as a reminder to pray grace. In a prayer celebration they thanked God for their blessings.



Living the Lesson

In Moline, Illinois, Deacon Tom Vogelbaugh is known as “Mr. Thanksgiving.” Years ago he owned a small grocery store in town, and he was moved by the fact that many of his regular customers had no one with whom to celebrate Thanksgiving. So he hosted a dinner for about a dozen such people that year. The idea took off, and the feast grew year after year. Recently, with the help of more than four hundred volunteers, Vogelbaugh served two thousand guests. Over the years he’s served up more than 40,000 Thanksgiving meals. When asked why he does this, Vogelbaugh points to his own sense of gratitude for all that people—and God—have done for him through the years.

Gratitude is a fundamental building block of all spirituality. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude, and you will have the eyes to see God’s gifts all around you. One of the best gifts we can give our children is the habit of being thankful for the life that we share as a family. And the first step in teaching that is to model the attitude we hope they will assume. If they see us being thankful, they will learn to be thankful.

—Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (Loyola Press)



Bringing the Lesson Home

- Read with your child the pages that were sent home.
- Share a family thank-you meal. Take turns thanking each person for his or her special contribution to the family.
- Place the Grace at Meals prayer card by a different person each day, indicating whose turn it is to lead the meal prayer.
- Make a renewed effort to encourage all members of the family to use the words *please* and *thank you*.
- Before your family’s Thanksgiving meal, let each person thank God for a blessing received.
- Make it a family habit to thank God daily for blessings received, perhaps at mealtime or bedtime.

