



PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 136

FOCUS VERSES: Isaiah 40:28; Revelation 1:8; Psalm 100:4;
2 Corinthians 9:15

Summary: His steadfast love endures forever. This line repeats numerous times throughout Psalm 136 as a reminder to give thanks to God for His faithfulness in all He has done. The psalmist walks through the history of Israel, from creation to God's rescue in the promised land. We can thank God for His eternal goodness and His never-failing love.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

(PSALM 145:9)



God does good things for His people.



HOW LONG WILL GOD EXIST?
God is eternal. He has always existed and always will, which means His goodness and love never end.



HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO HIS GOODNESS?
We can give thanks to God and celebrate all the good things He does.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: SHARING JESUS WITH ALL KIDS

Do not underestimate a kid's capacity to understand who Jesus is and how He loves them. We each have the capacity to know and follow Jesus.

- **Assume competence.** Too many assume a kid, especially a nonverbal kid, can't understand, so we miss the life-transforming opportunity to share the Gospel. Regardless of a kid's response, continue sharing how much Jesus loves them and the truths of the Bible.
- **Use simple and concrete language.** Many kids are concrete thinkers, especially those who are neurodivergent. Abstract phrases, such as "Jesus lives in your heart," are confusing. Communicate simply and concisely. The words you are communicating should convey a simple and understandable image to the kid.
- **Engage the senses.** Use items kids can touch and smell, including a variety of textures. (Note that some kids may be sensitive to smell). Use music or sound effects to engage a kid's hearing as you communicate Biblical truths. Use visuals for the kids to retell the Bible story.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: IS GOD EVEN REAL?

Eighty-one percent of surveyed American adults indicated they believe in God.* While this is encouraging, kids may have experiences or influences that may cause them to doubt if God is real. This belief may be one they don't openly express in a church environment. Don't assume that kids are coming from the same place of belief. In today's lesson, kids will learn that we can thank God for all He has done and for His steadfast love. Look for ways to reinforce to your group what God is doing in the world, in your life and in the kids' lives. Encourage kids to name ways God is living and active in their world.

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Eternal: everlasting; having no beginning and no end

Goodness: perfect, right, and loving

Thanksgiving: to show gratitude

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 3 ping-pong balls, 3 plastic spoons

2**FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING
(PSALM 136)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, printable page

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, construction paper (red, green and blue), one dark sheet, table

5**LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: Hello, friends! I'm so glad you came today. I need three volunteers who think they can endure some tough challenges.

Choose three volunteers to play and call them to the front. Give each of them a spoon and a ping-pong ball. Players will hold the spoon in their mouths and try to balance the ping-pong ball on the spoon without letting the ball fall. Lead the players through increasingly difficult challenges until one player remains.

Challenges can include the following: raise both hands, turn in a circle, stand on one foot, jump once, kneel on one knee, jump twice, etc. Continue playing until one player is left.

Say: You lasted a long time in that game, but even the best players couldn't endure forever. Today we're learning about something that will endure forever—God's love.

SUPPLIES:

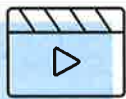
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 3 ping-pong balls, 3 plastic spoons

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Start slowly with easy challenges in this game to build confidence in the players.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Wes realized he should be more grateful to lifeguards because there's way more to the job than he first knew.

Discuss: Who are some people you know that serve others, but don't get much thanks?

Say: Our hearts should always be full of gratitude to God for who He is and all He has done. Today's Brite Idea is: God does good things for His people.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



How long will God exist?



How can we respond to His goodness?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God’s story.

WHAT IS GOD’S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God’s Big Story

Review each part of God’s Big Story. Consider discussing each description or asking kids to explain them.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God’s Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY’S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week’s story comes from the book of Psalms. Psalms is the 19th book of the Bible and found in the Old Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story can be found in the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is a collection of songs, hymns and prayers that were written during different times within the Old Testament period.

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that God is good. Last week we learned about psalms of trust and how God is our Good Shepherd. This week we will declare together that God’s steadfast love endures forever as we study psalms of thanksgiving!

LET’S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Psalms. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today’s Bible passage (Psalm 136).

Say: Let’s find the book of Psalms together. Remember, the front of your Bible has a Table of Contents if you need that. Next, we will find the chapter. Find the big number 136. The verses are the little numbers. Find the little number 1.

Bible TEACHING

PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING PSALM 136



PRAY: God, there is so much to be thankful for! And nothing deserves our gratitude more than You and the fact that Your steadfast love endures forever. May we pour out our thanks to You as we experience Your Word today. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable page

PREP:

Print the printable page.

LEADER TIP:

Lead kids through Psalm 136 in a spirit of worship. Help them use this time as a celebration of God's incredible love.



Invite an older kid to stand at the front of your space and hold the printable page. They must hold it up every time the group is prompted to declare, "His steadfast love endures forever!"

Say: Psalms of thanksgiving celebrate all the good things God has done, and they lead us to worship by encouraging us to thank Him. The author of Psalm 136 is anonymous, meaning we don't know who wrote it.

Say: This psalm declares: *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever. (verse 1)*

Say: Let's practice saying those words together.

Cue the volunteer to hold up the printable page.

Say: Say it with me: "His steadfast love endures forever!"

Say: In fact, the words His steadfast love endures forever are repeated over and over again in this psalm. We can thank God that His strong, never-ending love lasts forever! In fact, let's do that now!

Say: I'll read the first part of each verse, and every time we get to the words *for His steadfast love endures forever*, we will hold up the words and you'll read that part. Start in soft voices, then get louder and more excited each time.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Read Psalm 136 directly from the Bible: Each time the passage says “**for His steadfast love endures forever**,” have the older kid hold up the printable page. Remind the kids to start softly and get louder each time they repeat the sentence.

Say: The psalm goes through the history of God’s people, the Israelites, showing how God’s steadfast love endures forever. It begins with creation.

Show teaching illustration: God’s Creation

Say: We can thank God because He is the One who made the heavens, Earth, the sun and the moon.

Say: I think we should shout the phrase again! Everyone, shout it with me ...

Cue the volunteer to hold up the printable page.

Say: “His steadfast love endures forever!”

Say: God showed His forever, never-failing love when He freed the Israelites from Egypt. He split the Red Sea to rescue them from Pharaoh’s army. He led them through the wilderness. He defeated kings and armies so the Israelites could live in the land He promised them.

Say: In the Promised Land, the Israelites continued to turn away from God, but He still rescued them every time. He provided for them and defeated their enemies.

Say: Last time, everyone! Say it like you mean it ...

Cue the volunteer to hold up the printable page.

Say: “His steadfast love endures forever!”

Show teaching illustration: Everlasting Love

 (CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: God's love endures forever because He is eternal—He will exist forever. He has always loved and taken care of His people, and He always will. Psalm 136:26 ends this wonderful psalm by saying: *Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.*

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus

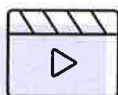


POINT TO JESUS

Say: The writer of Psalm 136 didn't know the most amazing way God would show His steadfast love, but we do now! God sent Jesus to make a way for us to live forever with Him. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can forever celebrate God's steadfast love. He continues to show His goodness to us, and one day He will show His steadfast love by making all things new.



Review



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, construction paper (red, green and blue), one dark sheet, table

PREP:

Cut the colored paper into enough small squares so that each kid can have one piece of each color.

INSTRUCTIONS: For each question, kids will hold up the color that identifies the correct answer.

1. How long does God's love endure?

Red: Forever

Blue: Until Tuesday

Green: Most of your life

2. We can be thankful to the God of creation because ...

Red: He made almost everything.

Blue: He made the heavens, Earth, the sun and the moon.

Green: He needed help to make the stars.

3. God showed His forever, never-failing love to the Israelites by ...

Red: Splitting the Red Sea and freeing them from Egypt

Blue: Knocking down the walls around Bethlehem

Green: Helping Jonathan defeat Goliath with stones and a sling

4. How many times did God rescue the Israelites in the Promised Land, even though they didn't follow His ways?

Red: Three strikes and they were out

Blue: 70 times 7

Green: Every single time

5. How long will God exist?

Red: Another thousand years

Blue: God is eternal.

Green: Not much longer

He has always existed and always will, which means His goodness and love never end.

6. How can we respond to His goodness?

Red: We can become rich and famous.

Blue: We can just forget about it.

Green: We can give thanks to God and celebrate all the good things He does.



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer



How long will God exist?

God is eternal. He has always existed and always will, which means His goodness and love never end.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer



How can we respond to His goodness?

We can give thanks to God and celebrate all the good things He does.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

(PSALM 145:9)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, thank You for Your goodness. This week, help us live with thankful hearts. Remind us every day of Your steadfast love, and may our words and actions bring You praise. Amen.



**HIS STEADFAST
LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER!**

