



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.**

HE

HOW LONG WILL GOD EXIST?

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

WE

HOW CAN WE RESPOND TO HIS GOODNESS?

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

ME

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.

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

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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.



**HIS STEADFAST
LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER!**

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

ACT IT OUT

SUPPLIES: None

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

OR

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, writing supplies

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

REPEAT AND CELEBRATE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, individually wrapped candy (1 per kid)

GOD IS ETERNAL

OR

SUPPLIES: Bibles, 2 large mirrors, stuffed animal

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

THANKFUL ALL DAY

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors

NOTICING PRAYER

OR

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, writing supplies



ACT IT OUT

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Write down each clue after the kids guess. This will give a visual of all the clues when they guess the story.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What were the best and worst parts of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is good. How have you seen this week that God is good?
4. **Say:** Today we are learning about God's amazing goodness to us.
5. **Say:** I will choose one person to act out a story of God's goodness from the Bible, and the rest of the group will need to guess the story. The actor will act out some clues, and you will guess what story from the Bible they are acting out.
6. *Choose one kid to act out the story. Whisper the story and each action one at a time. After the clues have been acted out, let kids guess the story.*
 - **Creation:** stars, trees, fish, people
 - **Joseph:** prison, food, hungry
 - **Ten Commandments:** tablets, writing, God
 - **Joshua and the walls of Jericho:** big walls, march in circle, seven days
 - **Esther:** afraid, swords, pray
 - **Jesus:** cross, love, healing
7. **Discuss:** How did God show His goodness in these stories?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning about Psalm 136. This psalm recounts God's goodness and expresses thanks to Him for all He has done. We are learning that God does good things for His people.



HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, writing supplies

PREP:

Print the printable pages (1 quiz per kid).
Keep the Answer Key with you.

LEADER TIP: Share examples of how God has been good in your life!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What were the best and worst parts of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is good. How have you seen this week that God is good?
4. **Say:** Let's do an activity to learn about how long things last.
5. **Say:** I will give each of you a page with items on it. You will need to guess how long these things last. You will write your answer next to the item. You can work with a partner or on your own. After you are done, whoever has the most correct answers wins.
6. *Pass out a quiz and writing supplies to everyone.*
7. *Give kids time to complete the activity.*
8. *Review each answer and declare a winner.*
9. **Discuss:** Did anything surprise you on this sheet?
10. **Discuss:** Do you know of anything that lasts forever?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning about Psalm 136. In Psalm 136, the writer repeats the same phrase over and over—"His faithful love endures forever." Nothing in this world will last forever, but God's love and goodness does!



REPEAT AND CELEBRATE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, individually wrapped candy (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

LEADER TIP: Use small prizes for an allergy-friendly alternative.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 145:9 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What is the writer of this verse thankful for?
3. **Discuss:** In Psalm 136, what does the writer praise God for over and over?
4. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
5. **Say:** Let's celebrate God and practice our verse!
6. **Say:** We will say the verse together while I pass around this piece of candy. Whoever is holding the candy when the verse ends gets to keep it. You can't hold onto the candy. When you get it, you must pass it on while we are saying the verse.
7. *Start the game and recite the verse together aloud.*
8. *Award the piece of candy at the end of the verse and have whoever got the candy put it behind their back on the floor.*
9. *Continue reciting the verse and playing until everyone has gotten a piece of candy. Enjoy the candy while discussing the questions below.*
10. **Say:** We are sitting in a circle. An unbroken circle goes on and on and never ends.
11. **Discuss:** What does it mean that God is eternal?
12. **Discuss:** How does God's eternal nature make a difference in your life?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



GOD IS ETERNAL

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, 2 large mirrors, stuffed animal

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: You can use mirrors of any size, but test the effect first to make sure the mirror is large enough for the image to be reflected repeatedly. The larger the mirror, the easier it will be.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did the writer of Psalm 136 praise God for over and over?
2. **Discuss:** What does forever mean?
3. **Discuss:** Have you ever used the word forever to describe something that you feel is going on for a very long time? What was it?
4. **Say:** Let's do an experiment to observe something that goes on infinitely.
5. *Take out the mirrors and have two kids help you hold them. Position them so they are facing each other.*
6. **Discuss:** If I put this stuffed animal between these two mirrors, what will I see in the mirrors?
7. *Place the stuffed animal between the mirrors and observe the effect.*
8. *Allow kids to stand between the mirrors to see and experience the effect fully.*
9. *Lead kids to find Revelation 1:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
10. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
11. **Say:** God is eternal. He has always existed and will always exist. Just like the images in the mirror continue forever and ever, so does God.
12. *Lead kids to find Isaiah 40:28 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
13. **Discuss:** What does it mean to you personally that God is eternal?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: How do you remember something amazing that someone did for you?

Say: Psalm 136 thanks God for real events in Israel's history. Archaeologists have uncovered Egyptian records describing plagues, disasters and sudden loss, fitting the time of the exodus. In the Sinai region, they've found ancient desert campsites and pottery from nomadic groups, reminding us that Israel truly traveled through the wilderness. At Jericho, excavations revealed collapsed walls from the period described in the book of Joshua, matching what the writer of Psalm 136 says about God giving Israel the land. The events mentioned in Psalm 136 aren't fairy tales. They reflect real people and places and real moments when God rescued His people. As the psalm says, *"His steadfast love endures forever."*

Read Psalm 136:1 directly from the Bible: *Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... IS GOD EVEN REAL?

Discuss: Do you think all kids believe God is real?

Discuss: What are some reasons people might not believe God is real?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about that?

Say: There are many people in our world who don't believe in God. Maybe their family doesn't believe. Maybe something happened in their lives that made them feel God couldn't be real. Maybe they just have trouble believing in something they can't see. You may have wondered sometimes if God really is real. God tells us about Himself in creation and in His Word, but believing in Him also requires faith. Faith is trusting and believing even when we can't see. Each person has to decide for themselves that God is real and that they want to have a relationship with Him. If you have doubts, it is okay to talk to God and a trusted adult about them. You can also look at all God has done in the world and in your life. Psalm 66:5 says: *Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.*



THANKFUL ALL DAY

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and cut out (1 card per 2 kids).

LEADER TIP: For smaller groups, give pairs additional cards.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Strategically partner kids together, ensuring that those who need support have a strong partner.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What is Psalm 136 about?
2. **Say:** Psalm 136 is a song giving thanks to God.
3. *Lead kids to find Psalm 100:4 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
4. **Discuss:** Why is it good for us to be thankful to God?
5. **Discuss:** How can we respond to God's goodness?
6. **Say:** We can give thanks and celebrate all the good things He has done.
7. **Say:** In pairs, you will get a piece of paper with a time of the day on it. You will need to think of what you could thank God for at that time of the day and write it on your paper. Then we will share them all together.
8. *Divide kids into pairs and give pairs a time-of-the-day card.*
9. *Give kids time to brainstorm and write their responses.*
10. *Gather kids together and have them share their ideas, starting with the morning and moving through the day.*
11. **Say:** We have a lot to be thankful to God for. Just like the psalmists responded in gratefulness to God because of His goodness and love, we also can practice gratitude throughout each day.
12. **Discuss:** What are ways that you can remember to thank and celebrate God throughout your day?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we learned God does good things for His people. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something.

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.



NOTICING PRAYER

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, printable pages

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages.

LEADER TIP: If you don't have a lot of extra room, have kids sit by themselves and put their heads down to create private space.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What is Psalm 136 about?
2. **Discuss:** What does the psalmist thank God for?
3. **Lead kids to find Psalm 100:4** in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.
4. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us to do?
5. **Discuss:** What can you thank God for?
6. **Say:** Let's do an activity to notice what God has done and thank Him for it.
7. **Say:** You will spread out around our space. Then I will guide you in a prayer time to thank God for what He has done.
8. *Have kids spread out around your space.*
9. *Follow the printable page to complete the activity.*
10. **Discuss:** What are ways you can express your thankfulness to God?
11. **Say:** God is amazing and so good to us. We can give thanks to God and celebrate all the good things He does.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we learned God does good things for His people. As we learn truths about God, we can respond to Him. We can tell Him our feelings, we can pray or we can decide to do something or change something.

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages to choose a prompt and draw/write their response. Allow kids to volunteer to share their responses.



Wrap-Up

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He's taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, writing supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).



PRAYER

God, thank You for all the things that you have done for us. Most of all, thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins so we can have eternal life with You! Amen.



SAY GOODBYE!

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home page. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions, such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"

As parents arrive at pickup, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home page their kid is bringing home.



HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

PAGE 1 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable page (1 per kid).

QUIZ

How long does a refrigerated egg last? _____ weeks

How long does a Twinkie® sponge cake last? _____ month, _____ days

How long does a ripe banana last? _____ days

How long does school last? _____ hours

How long does a soccer game last? _____ hour, _____ minutes

How long does a movie last (on average)? _____ hours

How long does an unopened can of corn last? _____ years

How long does a day last? _____ hours

How long does it take the Earth to orbit around the sun? _____ days

How long does it take to get to Mars? _____ months





ANSWER KEY

How long does a refrigerated egg last? 4 weeks

How long does a Twinkie® sponge cake last? 1 month, 15 days

How long does a ripe banana last? 2-3 days

How long does school last? 7-8 hours

How long does a soccer game last? 1 hour, 30 minutes

How long does a movie last (on average)? 2 hours

How long does an unopened can of corn last? 2-5 years

How long does a day last? 24 hours

How long does it take the Earth to orbit around the sun? 365 days

How long does it take to get to Mars? 7-10 months





THANKFUL ALL DAY

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

PAGE 1 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 card per 2 kids).

TIME CARDS

7:00 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

12:00 PM



THANKFUL ALL DAY

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

PAGE 2 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 card per 2 kids).

TIME CARDS

2:00 PM

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

8:00 PM



Guided Prayer #1

Say: Close your eyes and imagine you are at a beach. *(pause)*
With your eyes still closed, imagine feeling the sand between your toes. *(pause)* Imagine hearing the waves crashing up on the shore. *(pause)* Imagine feeling the warm sunshine on your face. *(pause)*
Now, with your eyes still closed, thank God for the tiniest details of our world. *(pause)*

Pray: Dear God, thank You for creating the oceans with crashing waves, and for beaches with millions of grains of sand, and for warm sunshine. Your creation is beautiful, and we thank You and praise You for it! Amen.

Guided Prayer #2

Say: Close your eyes again. *(pause)* Imagine you are at your favorite place. *(pause)* Don't answer out loud, but think in your head - where are you? *(pause)* Now, with your eyes still closed, imagine - what do you see? *(pause)* What do you hear? *(pause)* Who might be with you? *(pause)* Now talk to God about it! In your head, thank God for the people and things He created in your favorite place. *(pause, then close in prayer)*

Pray: Dear God, thank You for our favorite places. Thank You for the people and things You created. We thank You for the wondrous things You did in the Bible to show Your love. We thank You for the many ways You show us Your love today. We love You and we praise You! Amen.



Guided Prayer #3

Say: Close your eyes. Think back over your life so far, from the time you were a baby until now. *(pause)* Think about the times that have been hard in your life. *(pause)* Think about how God has been with you through those times. Think about the good times in your life. *(pause)* Thank God for the good times. *(pause)*

Pray: Dear God, thank You for always being with me in the good times and the bad times. I see that You have actively helped me. Thank You that even when we go through hard times, we can trust You and remember You are always with us. Amen.

Guided Prayer: #4

Say: Close your eyes. Think about our world and all the people in it. Think about how God wants everyone to know about Him, no matter what language they speak or culture they live in. *(pause)* Take a moment and thank God for all of the missionaries who are telling people all over the world about Him. *(pause)* Pray for the missionaries everywhere, that they would be able to communicate about God and His love effectively.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for loving everyone and wanting everyone to know about You! We pray for missionaries all over the world. Give them strength and safety. Help them communicate Your love effectively. Amen.



TAKE-HOME

OLDER ELEMENTARY PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

Psalm 136

BRITE Idea

God does good things for His people.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

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

(PSALM 145:9)

HE

HOW LONG WILL GOD EXIST?

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

WE

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?



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

CHOOSE YOUR *Challenge*

- ☐ Memorize Psalm 145:9 by using a silly voice.
- ☐ Make a poster of Psalm 136:1 and hang it in your home.
- ☐ Praise God for all the good things He has done!

SCAN ME!

FOR AT-HOME DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION



NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

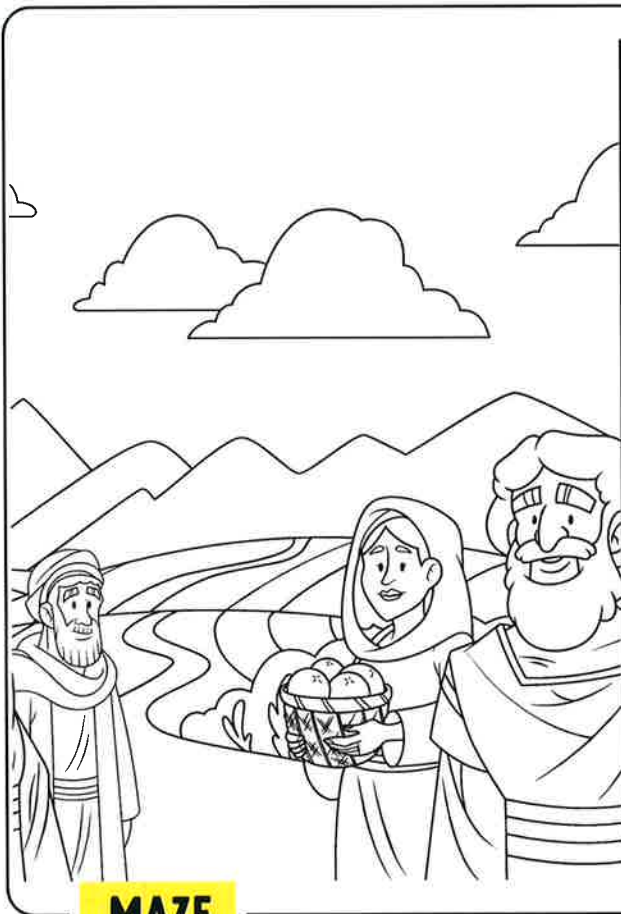
The reality of God can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here:

[Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

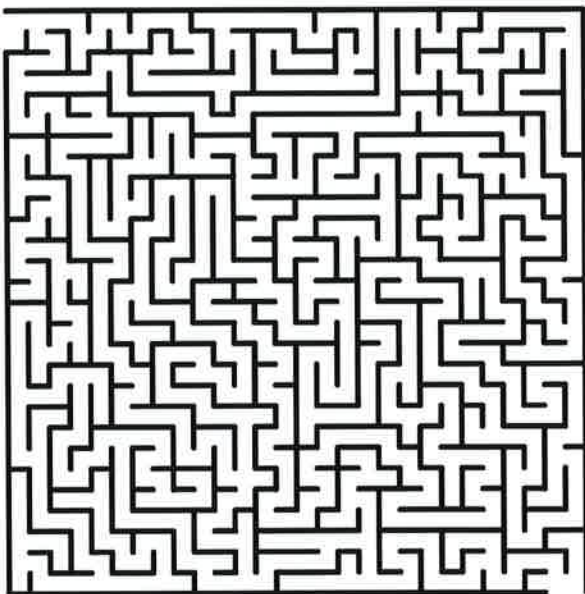


TAKE-HOME

OLDER ELEMENTARY
PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING



MAZE



COPY THE PICTURE

SUDOKU

	1	7				3	5	
2			1		9			8
5				7				2
	7			4			8	
		5	6		8	4		
	4			9			1	
7				6				4
1			4		7			6
	6	3				8	7	

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9



TAKE-HOME CUSTOMIZABLE

OLDER ELEMENTARY
PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

Psalms 136

BRITE Idea

God does good things for
His people.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

(PSALM 145:9)

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existed and always will, which
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We can give thanks to God and celebrate
all the good things He does.

HOW IS GOD INVITING

ME

TO RESPOND?



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

CHOOSE YOUR Challenge

- ☐ Memorize Psalm 145:9 by using
a silly voice.
- ☐ Make a poster of Psalm 136:1
and hang it in your home.
- ☐ Praise God for all the good
things He has done!

SCAN ME!

FOR AT-HOME DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION



NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

The reality of God can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens
of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here:

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