



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

REPEAT AFTER ME

SUPPLIES: None

KEEP IT UP

SUPPLIES: 3 balloons, timer

OR

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

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

FREEZE DANCE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, music player, upbeat worship music

GOES ON FOREVER

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

OR

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

CHAIN OF THANKFULNESS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, colored paper (1 per kid), scissors, tape

THANK GOD FOR THE WORLD

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, inflatable globe

OR

5



SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



REPEAT AFTER ME

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: If you have a larger group, have smaller circles so kids can remember everyone's noise.

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. *Gather kids in a circle.*
5. **Say:** Let's play a game to see how well you can remember and repeat.
6. **Say:** To play, one person will start and make a noise. Then the next person will repeat the first person's noise and add a noise. The next person will have to repeat the first two noises and add a third. We will continue until we get all the way around the circle.
7. *Choose one kid to start.*
8. *Start the game and help kids remember the noises as needed.*
9. **Discuss:** Sometimes teachers repeat directions, or your mom or dad might have you repeat what they said. Why do people repeat things?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning about Psalm 136. In this psalm, the writer repeats the phrase "His steadfast love endures forever" after each line. This is a reminder to give God thanks for all He has done for us!



KEEP IT UP

SUPPLIES:

3 balloons, timer

PREP:

Inflate the balloons.

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 play a game to see how long we can keep a balloon in the air!
5. **Say:** I will throw this balloon in the air. You will all work together to keep it in the air. I will set a timer to see how long we can keep it in the air.
6. *Start the game and cheer the kids on.*
7. *Stop the timer when the balloon hits the ground. Continue playing, trying to beat your time.*
8. *To make the game more challenging, add additional balloons.*
9. **Say:** You kept that balloon up for a long time!
10. **Discuss:** Have you ever used the word forever to describe something that you felt was very long, such as waiting for dessert or waiting for school to be over?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

We sometimes say things last "forever," but they actually don't. Nothing in this world does! But today we are learning about a psalm that reminds us many times that God's love for us really does last forever.



FREEZE DANCE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, music player, upbeat worship music

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Some kids may have trouble settling after the silly dancing. Take a few deep breaths afterward to help kids be ready for the next activity.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Psalm 145:9 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** Is there anyone that God isn't good to?
3. **Discuss:** What phrase does the writer of Psalm 136 repeat many times?
4. **Say:** God's goodness and love will last forever. That's something to sing and dance about!
5. **Say:** Let's practice our verse by playing a freeze dance game.
6. **Say:** I will play some music, and you will show me your best dance moves. When I stop the music, we will all shout out our verse in our loudest voices!
7. *Start the music and encourage kids to dance. Dance along with them.*
8. *Stop the music and shout the verse together.*
9. *Continue playing. Encourage kids to dance in different ways—jumping, chicken dance, swaying their arms, twisting, etc. Be sure to dance along with them. You can ask the kids to suggest and demonstrate a type of dance.*
10. **Say:** Dancing and celebrating is one way that people express their thanks to God for all that He has done.
11. **Discuss:** What things did the writer of Psalm 136 thank God for?
12. **Discuss:** God's love and faithfulness last forever. How long do you think God will exist?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



GOES ON FOREVER

SUPPLIES:

Bible, paper (1 per kid), coloring supplies

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** In Psalm 136, what did the writer repeat over and over? Why?
2. **Say:** Let's do an activity.
3. **Say:** I will give each of you a piece of paper and some coloring supplies. Your job will be to think of as many things as possible that are circles. Then draw them on your paper. The person with the most things wins!
4. *Pass out the supplies and start the game. Give kids suggestions if needed.*
5. *Tell the kids to stop and have them count their items. Declare a winner.*
6. **Discuss:** What are the different items that you drew?
7. **Say:** Circles are interesting because they really have no beginning or end. You can take a pencil and trace around the outside of a circle over and over and never stop. You could do it forever!
8. **Read:** Isaiah 40:28.
9. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
10. **Discuss:** What does everlasting mean?
11. **Read:** Revelation 1:8.
12. **Discuss:** What does this tell us about God?
13. **Say:** These verses tell us that God has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and always will. He is eternal.
14. **Discuss:** If God exists forever, what does that tell us about His love and goodness?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this story show us God is a promise keeper?

Say: Psalm 136 celebrates God's promise-keeping ways. He brought the Israelites out of Egypt, even parting the Red Sea to keep them safe. He gave them the land He had promised long before. He delivered them from enemies within the land, even after they disobeyed Him. We can celebrate God's faithfulness.

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.*



CHAIN OF THANKFULNESS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, colored paper (1 per kid), scissors, tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).
Cut the paper into strips that are 1.5 inches wide each (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What is Psalm 136 about?
2. **Discuss:** Why did the writer repeat the same phrase throughout this psalm?
3. **Say:** The writer was remembering all the amazing things that God had done for the Israelites—how God made Earth and everything in it and how He saved and protected the people from their enemies.
4. **Read:** Psalm 100:4.
5. **Discuss:** How can we respond to God's goodness?
6. **Say:** God has done so many good things for us! We can give thanks to God and celebrate all the good things He does.
7. **Say:** Let's make a chain of thankfulness to see that God's goodness and love never ends.
8. **Say:** I will give you some strips of paper. You can draw pictures of thankfulness on the strips—one picture per strip. Then we will put them together to see God's eternal love and goodness to us!
9. **Discuss:** What are some things you are thankful for?
10. *Pass out the supplies and give kids time to draw what they are thankful for.*
11. *Help kids tape the strips together into a big chain.*
12. *Stretch the chain around your space and praise God for all He has done.*

**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 the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages and discuss possible responses. Have kids choose a prompt and write/draw their response.



THANK GOD FOR THE WORLD

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, inflatable globe

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did the writer of Psalm 136 repeat over and over again? Why?
2. **Say:** The writer wrote of God's never-ending goodness and love.
3. **Read:** Psalm 100:4.
4. **Discuss:** How can we respond to God's eternal goodness?
5. **Say:** We can give thanks and celebrate all that God has done. Let's thank God for the world and pray for people all over the world to know God.
6. *Gather kids in a circle.*
7. **Say:** We will toss this globe around our circle. When you are holding the globe, you will put your finger on a country. I will read what country it is, and we will say "Thank You, God, for the people of ____." Then we will pray for the people in that country to know God and for the missionaries in that country. Then we will say all together, "Your faithful love endures forever."
8. *Toss the globe to someone and help them identify a country on the globe.*
9. *Thank God for the country and pray for that country and the missionaries there. Model this the first time, then invite any kids who would like to pray to do so for that country.*
10. **Pray to close:** Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to save us so we can have a relationship with You. Thank You that You want the whole world to know You!
11. **Say:** God wants everyone everywhere to know about Him. This week, thank God for our world and pray for people everywhere to know Him.

**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 the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages and discuss possible responses. Have kids choose a prompt and write/draw their response.



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!

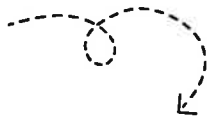
Read the challenges from the Take-Home page aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

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



PRAYER

God, thank You for all the things You have done for us. Most of all, thank You for sending Jesus 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.



TAKE-HOME

YOUNGER 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?

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!



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

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



TAKE-HOME

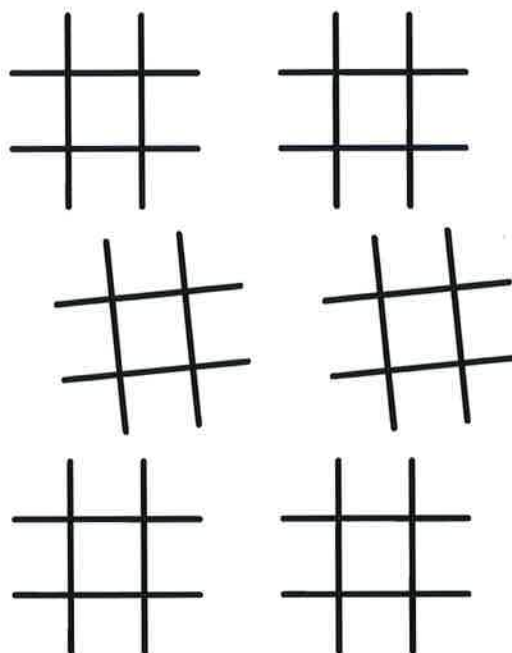
YOUNGER ELEMENTARY
PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING



MAZE



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TAKE-HOME CUSTOMIZABLE

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY
PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

Psalms 136



God does good things for
His people.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

(PSALM 145:9)



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



TO RESPOND?

Large empty box for drawing or writing a response.



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



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PSALM 136

PSALMS OF THANKSGIVING

