

Giving Thanks



Theme: Giving thanks to God for His blessings. Proper 29 (34)

Object: A Cornucopia

Scripture: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:4-5

How many of you know what this is? It is called a cornucopia. It is also sometimes called a horn of plenty. It is usually filled with many kinds of foods like apples, oranges, grapes, squash, and ears of corn. It is a symbol of an endless supply of food. Today, the cornucopia is usually made from a basket similar to this one, but many years ago, it was a goat's horn that was hollowed out and filled with food. We see it most often at this time of year because this is the time when many food crops are harvested. In the USA, it is used as a decoration around Thanksgiving because the cornucopia is a symbol of all of the good things that we have to enjoy.

We have a lot to be thankful for, don't we? What are some of the things you are thankful for? (give the children some time to name some things) Who should we thank for all that we have? That's right, we should give thanks to God. The Bible tells us that every good and perfect gift comes from God. When someone gives you a gift, you say, "Thank you." When do you think we should say, "Thank you" to God? Should we have one day each year that we give thanks? Should we have one day each week that we give thanks? I think EVERY DAY should be a day of thanksgiving. Don't you agree?

Our Bible lesson today says:

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Let's stop right now and give thanks and praise God for all he has done for us.

Lord, we thank you for your for all of the good gifts you give to us. Most of all, we thank you for your love and for the gift of your son, Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Giving Thanks



Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 100:4

Give Thanks

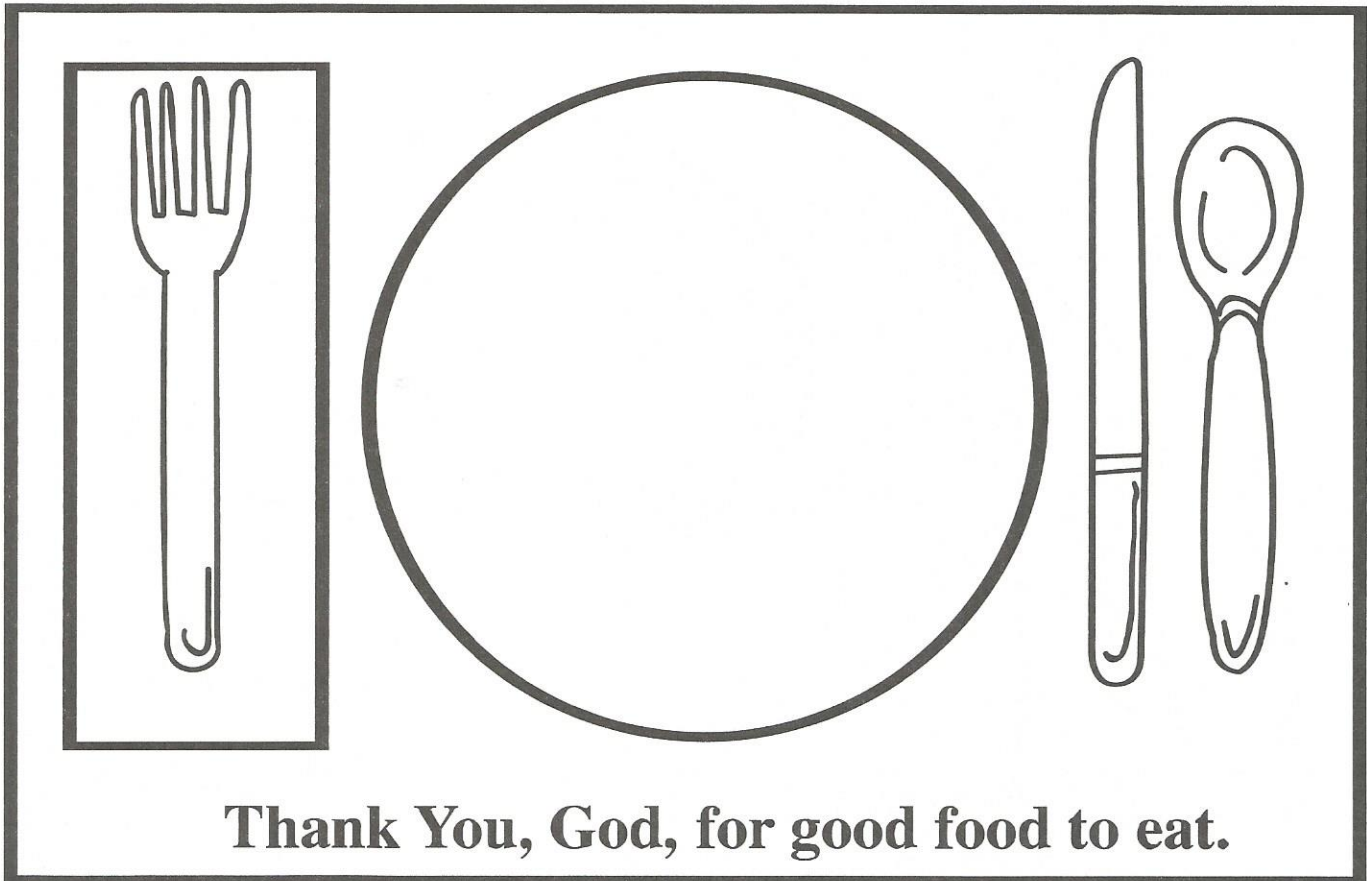
Thank You, God, for Food

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Jesus wants us to be thankful for the many wonderful things He gives us. What are some things for which you are thankful?

Good food to eat is one thing for which we should be thankful. Jesus is happy when you say thank You to Him before you eat each meal.

Your teacher will give you some food to glue on the picture. You can take your picture home to help you remember to thank Jesus for food every day.



For the Teacher: Before class, glue the pictures on heavy cardboard and cut them out. Provide the children with dried foods that they can glue on the plates: raisins, croutons, nuts, cereal circles, etc. Discuss things for which the children can be thankful. Lead the children in a simple mealtime prayer.

Give Thanks

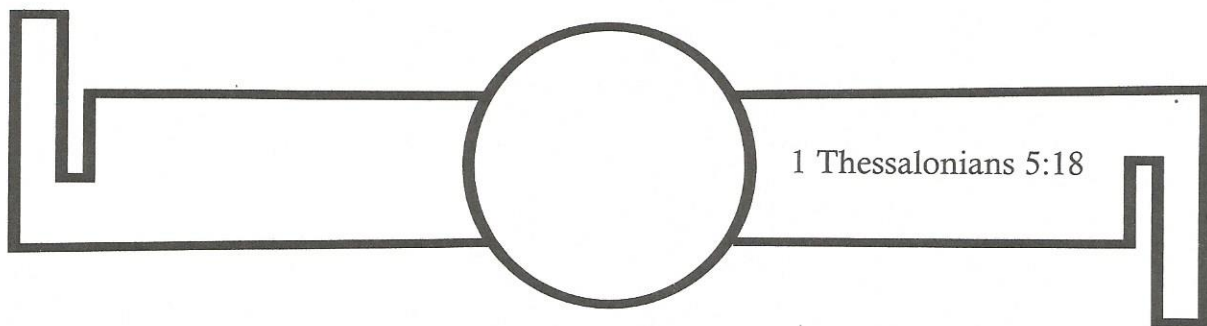
Thankful Time Watch

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Jesus wants us to be thankful all the time for the many wonderful things He gives us. What are you thankful for right now?

You can make a play watch to help you remember to be thankful to God all the time.

Glue the circle onto the construction paper watch band your teacher gives you. Your teacher will also help you put on the watch so you can wear it.



For the Teacher: Using the pattern, cut one watch band for each child out of colorful construction paper. Help the children glue their watch face circles onto the bands. After labeling each watch with a child's name, put the watch around the child's wrist and hook the ends together. (If desired, staple the ends of the band so the watch will stay on longer. Cover the staples with clear tape to avoid injury.) Ask the children to name things for which they are thankful.

CANDY CORN RUN: Divide the children into teams. Each child will take a turn of holding a spoon in their mouth while carrying a single candy corn to the bowl at the other side of the room that is on a table. After dropping the candy corn into a bowl for that team, the child will run back to the team and then the next child will take their own plastic spoon and a single candy corn and run carefully to drop their candy corn in the bowl. If the candy corn drops on the floor or the ground, they must stop at that spot and put the candy corn back on their spoon and continue the race.

CORN KERNEL RELAY: Children can be divided into teams and take turns running to a bowl full of dried up corn kernels. Each child will quickly grab 5 (five) kernels and run back to their line, until all the children have played the relay game and each child will have 5 kernels of corn. Children will save these kernels for the 5 kernels activity later, or right after this relay.

JUMP ROPING: Children can take turns jumping rope. Tell children that as they jump each time, they are to shout out things they are thankful for or SHOULD be thankful for. If they jump without giving thanks, then the rope will be given to the next child to continue the thanks jumping!

TURKEY HANDS: Give children construction paper and markers and colors to trace their hand, add legs to the bottom of the hand print. Color each finger a bright color to symbolize the turkey's feathers. Children can add the eyes and a beak to the thumb finger. Let children write one thing that they are thankful for on each one of the fingers!

FIVE KERNEL THANKSGIVING: Let children sit in a circle with their 5 kernels of corn. Take turns going around the circle and sharing give things each child is thankful for - either people's names or things such as home, church, school, etc. Children can place their kernels in a bowl or basket as they share their thanks and then pass the bowl/basket to the next person.

THANKS BOOKLET: Provide children with at least 5 pieces of construction paper. The front title page can be decorated as child would like, with words of Thanks on the front. For one page, the teacher can give the children some toothpicks and tape or glue to form a house (to be thankful for); another page could let children use lip gloss or lipstick to place on their lips and then kiss the page and draw a happy face around their lip mark; another page could be a rainbow that the teacher gives the children paint to form the rainbow; and another page could be thanks for food and the teacher could supply magazine pictures of food for the children to glue or tape on that food page. One page could be thanks for their own Church, as the teacher gives them cut out colored paper shapes that the children would form into the shape of a church, or one page for red strips of paper to form the cross, etc.

CANDY CORN ART: The teacher can give each child a large orange cut out shape of a candy corn. Children can write today's Bible verse on that shape of a candy corn and tape or glue a real piece of candy corn to the middle of the artwork.

THANKS PLACE MAT: Children can be given a tracing of a cornucopia or a basket that the children can cut out and glue onto a large piece of construction paper. Let children choose pics from a magazine of fruit and vegetables to glue or tape into the cornucopia

or basket. Give children a typed out piece of paper with today's Bible verse, or children can write words of thanksgiving from today's lesson.

SING A SONG: To God Be the Glory

SHARE A SNACK: Let children enjoy candy corn cupcakes. Just have cupcakes, frosting and some candy corns available for children to frost the cupcakes and stick several candy corns in the frosting to enjoy! GIVE THANKS before eating today's snack together!