



SERIES OVERVIEW

When we stop and notice them, we'll see that we are surrounded by helpers who deserve a big thank you for all the ways they help us. They are making the world we live in a better place. When we grow up with eyes that see these helpers and a heart that is grateful, showing thankfulness becomes a happy habit. And no matter how young or grown up you are, a little thankfulness goes a long way.

WEEKLY MAIN POINTS

Week 1: I am thankful for people who help me.

Week 2: I am thankful for people who give me clothes.

WEEK 3: I AM THANKFUL FOR PEOPLE WHO GIVE ME FOOD.

Week 4: I am thankful for people who help me when I'm hurt.

WEEKLY BIBLE STORIES

Week 1: Nehemiah Builds a Wall • Nehemiah 1-6

Week 2: Tabitha • Acts 9:36-39

WEEK 3: ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW • 1 KINGS 17:7-16

Week 4: Good Samaritan • Luke 10:25-37

SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE



"Always

give thanks

to God."

Ephesians 5:20

*"Always (stretch your arms out wide)
give thanks (move hand down from chin)
to God." (point both index fingers straight up in the air)
Ephesians 5:20, NCV (open your hands like a book)*

KID CONNECT

KID CONNECT is all about eGROUP CONNECTIONS: for you to make connections with your eGroup and for the kids to make connections with each other. It's okay if you don't complete all the activities - some activities will work better for your group than others. Begin Kid Connect when doors open. **KID CONNECT ENDS WHEN THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE BEGINS.**

KEY QUESTION

Who are you thankful for?
(I am thankful for people who help me.)

MAIN POINT

I am thankful for people who give me food.

BIBLE STORY

Elijah and the Widow
1 Kings 7:7-16

MEMORY VERSE

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Ephesians 5:20, NCV
(open hands like a book)

COLORING PAGE

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: crayons, big coloring page set (16 pages), coloring page key (1), Quest check-in sheet (1)

What you do: Place the crayons in the center of the circle and give each child a page from the coloring page set. Explain that after they color, children will put all the pieces from the set together to form one big picture!

Write children's names and tag numbers on the Quest check-in sheet as children arrive.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Instruct children to color their coloring page. As children color, get to know them by asking what they have done today or what they are going to do.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Ask children to help you arrange the pages they colored with any unused coloring pages from the set to form one large picture. Use the key to help assemble the big picture if needed. **Keep the large picture assembled to use in the next Kid Connect activity: I Spy.**

KID CONNECT

I SPY

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: coloring sheets from previous activity, finger pointer (1)

What you say: "Wow! This is a big picture! There are some smaller things hidden in our big picture. Let's see if we can find them all!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Explain children will look for hidden objects in the big picture. When they see the object you call out, they should raise their hand. As children raise their hands, choose one child to use the finger pointer to show the rest of the group where it can be found. When there is more than one of the same object, a child should point out just one of them and then let another child have a turn. Continue until all objects have been found.

What you say: "All right, let's see if you can find..."

- "One chef's hat!"
- "Two pies!"
- "Three loaves of bread!"
- "Four salt or pepper shakers!"
- "Five plates of food!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Set the coloring pages aside until the end of the worship experience. Children may take home the part of the picture they colored. Any leftover pages should be discarded.

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1 Kings 7:7-16

MEMORY VERSE

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GROUP CONNECT

ONCE THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE BEGINS

CLUB HANDSHAKE

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: no supplies

What you do: Seat children in a circle.

What you say: "Hi, friends! This month we're all part of the Happy Helpers Club. We're taking notice of all the amazing people who help us and all the different ways they help us so we can show them how thankful we are for them.

Each week this month we're going to learn a different club handshake. This week for our special club handshake, we'll do a double high-five (*pretend to high-five with both hands*), spin around (*spin around in your spot*), and point to the person we're doing the handshake with (*point in front of you*). Everyone practice the handshake with me (*demonstrate as you say each step*): double high-five, spin, and point!" (*Repeat again if needed.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Encourage each child to say their name to the eGroup. After each child says their name, do the special club handshake with that child.

After all children are introduced, pass out a Quest animal sticker to each child. Have each child place it next to their name tag.

What you say: "We are the (insert animal name) today! There are two very special rules to remember so we can have the most fun. The rules to follow are:

1. Be Safe - How can we be safe? (*keeping our hands to ourselves, sitting when others are sitting, walking instead of running, following the rules*)
2. Be Kind - How can we be kind? (*listening when others are talking, sharing, obeying leaders, sitting on our bottoms so others can see*)

If you can obey our special rules and are ready to have fun then put one hand in the middle and repeat after me:

I am (*allow response*)

a (insert animal group name) (*allow response*)

I will (*allow response*)

be kind and safe! (*allow response*)

On the count of three everyone, say 'Go (insert animal name)!'

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . .

Go (insert group name)!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: "Now that we all know each other and we know the rules, we're ready to hear our Bible story!"

KEY QUESTION

Who are you thankful for?
(*I am thankful for people who help me.*)

MAIN POINT

I am thankful for people who give me food.

BIBLE STORY

Elijah and the Widow
1 Kings 7:7-16

MEMORY VERSE

"Always

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to God."

(*point both fingers straight up in the air*)

Ephesians 5:20, NCV
(*open hands like a book*)

BIBLE CONNECT

BIBLE CONNECT is all about **BIBLE CONNECTIONS**: for kids to make connections with the Bible and learn to love the Bible! Children will make connections to the Bible in two ways: by hearing and talking about the Bible story and practicing the memory verse. Begin Bible Connect after the *Get To Know You* activity. **AFTER BIBLE CONNECT CHILDREN HEAD TO FREE PLAY AND LARGE GROUP.**

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ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW 1 KINGS 7:7-16

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: *God's Story for Me Bible*, Bible story stickers

What you say: “We can find true stories in God’s book, the Bible!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Show and read the Bible story from pages 199-202 in the *God's Story for Me Bible*. Ask the Bible story review questions. Each time a child answers a question correctly, give the child a sticker. If children can’t remember the answer, take time as an eGroup to look back through the Bible story and find the answer together.

What you say: “Let’s see how much you remember from our Bible story!”

1. “When Elijah didn’t have food, who told Elijah to go to a town because there was a woman there who could help him?” *(God)*
2. “Did Elijah walk a little bit or a lot to get to the town?” *(a lot)*
3. “When Elijah found the woman, what was she picking up?” *(sticks)*
4. “Did Elijah ask the woman for pizza and apple juice or for water and bread?” *(water and bread)*
5. “Did the woman have enough flour and oil to make a lot of bread or only a little bit of bread?” *(only a little bit)*
6. “Did Elijah tell her to make bread for him first or to make bread for her child first?” *(for Elijah)*
7. “Did God promise there would be enough bread for all of them or just for Elijah?” *(for all of them)*
8. “Did the woman bake bread for Elijah first?” *(yes)*
9. “Did God keep His promise to give them plenty of food?” *(yes)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: “How did the woman help Elijah? *(Pause for children to answer.)* That’s right, she helped him by giving him food when he didn’t have any. We can be thankful for people who help us, too! Who are you thankful for?” *(I am thankful for people who help me.)*

BIBLE CONNECT

During the memory verse activity children will learn and practice the Bible verse together.

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VERSE VOICES

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: no supplies

What you say: “Our Bible verse reminds us to always give thanks to God; He is the best Helper ever!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Say the memory verse and do the motions in front of the children. After showing them once, encourage children to practice the memory verse with you using different voices. You can use all of the voice options or choose a few, depending on time and interest.

What you say: “I am going to say our memory verse. Everyone watch me! *(Demonstrate the memory verse as shown in the sidebar.)* Now let's do it all together! Are you ready? *(Say the memory verse with the motions several times.)* Now let's try the verse in some silly voices!”

- “Say the verse in a tired voice, like you've been working all day to help your neighbor rake leaves!”
- “Say the verse as fast as you can, like you're trying to help a friend finish cleaning their room super fast!”
- “Say the verse like your mouth is full of the applesauce you just helped feed your baby brother!”
- “Say the verse in an underwater voice, like you just helped give your little sister a bath!”
- “Say the verse in a loud voice, like you're helping your dad call your mom down for dinner!”
- “Say the verse in a happy voice, like you just helped your best friend find his special teddy bear!”
- “Say the verse in a whisper voice, like you're helping your mom make breakfast for your brother before he wakes up!”
- “Say the verse in a slow voice, like you're helping your great-grandmother walk slowly to her favorite chair!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: “Great job, friends! We can give thanks to God no matter what because He always helps us when we ask Him!”

What you do: Tell children they will have the opportunity to say the memory verse on their own during Free Play. Each child who can say the memory verse correctly will get a stamp and will then get to choose a Quest animal prize before they leave!

YOU CONNECT

YOU CONNECT is about the eGroup leader (**YOU!**) helping children make connections with the main point and their lives. You Connect activities reinforce the main point with fun and engaging activities. **BEGIN YOU CONNECT AFTER LARGE GROUP.**

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MEMORY VERSE

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HUNGER HELPERS

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: whiteboard (1), dry erase marker (1)

What you say: “Let’s think about the people who give us food and some ways we can thank them for helping us!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Use the whiteboard marker to draw the objects listed below.

Encourage children to rub their bellies when they know what you are drawing. Once children have guessed correctly, read the instructions given by the object and encourage children to respond.

- **PIZZA:** “If you love pizza, give two thumbs up! *(Encourage children to respond.)* Who is someone who gives you pizza? *(Allow three or four children to share.)* We should thank the people who give us food! What are some ways you could say thank you the next time someone gives you pizza?” *(Allow two or three children to share ideas.)*
- **PANCAKES:** “If you love pancakes, clap your hands! *(Encourage children to respond.)* Who is someone who gives you pancakes? *(Allow three or four children to share.)* We should thank the people who give us food! What are some ways you could say thank you the next time someone gives you pancakes?” *(Allow two or three children to share ideas.)*
- **SANDWICH:** “If you love sandwiches, tell a friend your favorite kind of sandwich! *(Encourage children to respond.)* Who is someone who gives you sandwiches? *(Allow three or four children to share.)* We should thank the people who give us food! What are some ways you could say thank you the next time someone gives you a sandwich?” *(Allow two or three children to share ideas.)*
- **COOKIE:** “If you love cookies, pretend to take a big bite of your favorite cookie! *(Encourage children to respond.)* Who is someone who gives you cookies? *(Allow three or four children to share.)* We should thank the people who give us food! What are some ways you could say thank you the next time someone gives you a cookie?” *(Allow two or three children to share ideas.)*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY

What you say: “We need food to help our bodies grow and stay healthy. We should be thankful for people who give us food, just like we’re thankful for all the people who help us in so many other ways! Who are you thankful for? *(I am thankful for people who help me.)* Let’s bow our heads and close our eyes and thank God for people who help us. *Dear God, thank You for making so many yummy foods for us to eat, and thank You for making the people who help give us food to eat. We are thankful for all of them! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.*”

YOU CONNECT

HANDSHAKE HELPERS

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: no supplies

What you do: Seat children in a circle.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Review this week's special club handshake with children, acting out the motions as you call them out:

double high-five,

spin,

point!

Encourage children to practice the handshake a few times so they remember.

Explain to children that their job is to help you do the handshake correctly. When you do it wrong, children will shake their heads. When you do it correctly, they should do the handshake with a friend beside them as fast as they can. The first pair of children to finish the handshake correctly will stand up and lead the eGroup in saying the main point: **"I am thankful for people who give me food."**

Do the handshake incorrectly several times (high-five with just one hand, point at yourself, etc.). Once you do it correctly, watch to see which pair of children completes the handshake correctly first, then encourage those children to stand up and lead the eGroup in saying the main point: **"I am thankful for people who give me food."** Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

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Ephesians 5:20, NCV
(open hands like a book)

DISMISSAL

KEY QUESTION

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1 Kings 7:7-16

MEMORY VERSE

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QUEST DISMISSAL CARD GAMES

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: Quest playing cards

What you do: Choose one of the card games to play with your group as parents arrive to pick children up.

CATCH OLLIE

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Deal the cards evenly among the children by placing cards in a face-down pile in front of each child. Stack any extra cards face-up in the center of the group.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Instruct children to take turns turning over the top card from their pile and placing the card face-up in the middle of the group. The next child will do the same by placing the card from the top of their personal pile on top of the card in the center. Play continues this way until someone turns over an Ollie card on top of the center pile. When the children see Ollie, they will compete to be the first to “catch” Ollie by covering the card with their hand. The child who catches Ollie first takes all the cards from the middle and puts them at the bottom of their stack. A child wins when they have collected all of the cards! (NOTE: If time runs out or if children are disengaging with the game, the player with the most cards can be declared the winner.)

FACE-OFF

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you need: Quest playing cards (1 deck)

What you do: Deal the whole deck of cards evenly among all children. Each child should have a small stack of cards face-down on the floor in front of them.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Instruct children to flip over their top card and place it on the floor close to the center of the circle. The highest card (two is lowest; ace is highest) wins that hand and takes the cards from the center. These cards can be added to their personal stack. Continue having children flip over their top card and allowing the child with the highest cards to take all the cards from the center. When a child runs out of cards, the child is out. The player to collect all the cards first is the winner!

If two people both play the card with the highest value, they will compete in a “face-off.” Each child will lay down three cards, face-down, and then flip the fourth card face-up. The highest cards wins all the cards played!

DISMISSAL

MATCHING

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Spread out the playing cards face-up and encourage children to help you find 10 matching pairs of cards. Set aside the other playing cards; they will not be used in the game.

Seat children in a circle. Shuffle the matching pairs together and lay them face-down in the center of the eGroup in a 4-by-5 grid.

DURING THE ACTIVITY

What you do: Children will take turns flipping over two cards. If the two cards match, the child can hold onto the two cards until the end of the game. If the two cards do not match, the child will return them to the same spots, face-down. The child with the most matches at the end wins!

eGL Note: If there are more than 10 children in the eGroup, split children into two smaller groups. Encourage children to help you create another set of 10 matching pairs of cards. Create another 4-by-5 card grid and allow each group to play with their own set of cards.

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