

# WEEK 4

# GOD IS PROVIDER

## GIVE THANKS FOR ALL GOD PROVIDES

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE



## THE FOUR KEYS

### KEY VERSE

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

### KEY IDEAS

1. God gives us so much to be thankful for.
2. God rewards a thankful heart.
3. God's will for us is to be thankful in all circumstances.

### KEY PASSAGE

Luke 17:11-19

### KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God gives us so much to be thankful for.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

thankful for all God provides.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

talk about what they are thankful for and how God has blessed them.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to be thankful in all circumstances knowing that God rewards a thankful heart.

# INTRODUCTION

God is the One who not only creates life, but He sustains it. The very breath in our lungs comes from God, and He is the source of all life in heaven and on earth. Nothing lives apart from Him, and everything we have has been given to us because of Him. Everything God gives is good, and He takes care of His children. Jesus says in Matthew 6:25-33 that life is more than what we eat or drink, and we should not worry that He will provide what we need. The birds of the air do not store away their food, and yet the Father feeds them. The flowers of the field do not spin yarn for clothing and yet the grass is beautifully adorned with them. God takes great care in all of His creation, and people are His greatest creation because we are made in His image. We can trust our Father can take greater care of us than we can for ourselves.

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by playing a bean bag toss game to help children memorize today's verse. Mark three spots on the floor with colored tape or by taping down a small circle from construction paper. Label the spots ONE, TWO, and THREE. If they land on ONE, they have to recite the verse aloud. If they land on TWO, they have to sing the verse to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb". If they land on THREE, they have to march around the room saying the verse aloud. After a few rounds, have the children come back and sit down for the lesson.

## STORY

Read Luke 17:11-19.

As Jesus was travelling, He passed through Samaria and Galilee. When He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers (people with a skin disease so bad that others wouldn't come near them). The lepers cried out for Jesus to heal them, and He did. Only one of the lepers returned to thank Jesus for healing him.

**Why do you think only one man returned?** We do not know exactly why because the Bible does not tell us, but we do know that sometimes even we forget to be thankful for what God has done for us. Sometimes we take the things God has given us for granted or even worse, we think God owes them to us. But God does not owe us anything. He's already given us everything we need in Jesus!

**Why do you think it's important to be thankful?** We know from our bible verse and this story that God desires for us to have a thankful heart. God is glorified when we give Him praise! There is nothing we have on earth that He has not given us.

## ACTIVITY

Use the supplies in the teacher's closet and the stop sign template attached to make a craft about giving thanks. Give one stop sign to each child and let them color it. Cut out the template and glue it to a piece of red construction paper. Then cut out the construction paper around it so it fits the sign. Use another color of construction paper to cut out small circles. Help kids write one thing they are thankful for on each circle (give each child 5 circles). Tape 5 pieces of string to the bottom of the stop sign, one for each circle. Tape the circles to the other end of the string. Talk with the kids about all the things they wrote. Talk about how Jesus responded to the leper who gave thanks vs. the ones who did not.

## PRAYER

Spend time thanking God for all He has done for us. Ask God to help you practice giving Him thanks more often each day.

## SONG

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands by We Sing Bible Songs

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Ephesians 5:20, Psalm 106:1, Psalm 86:12

## ACTIVITY

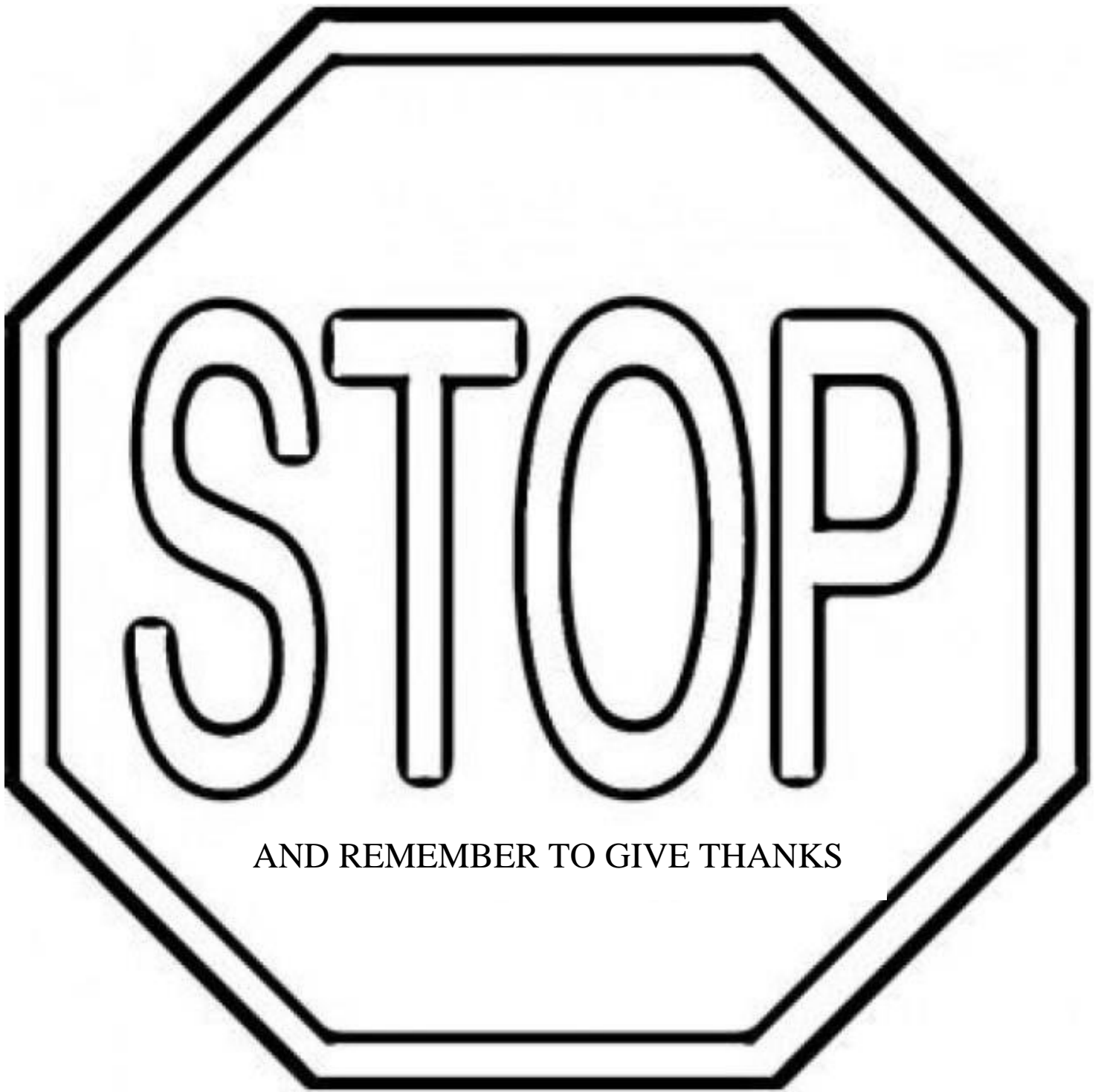
On a blank piece of paper, trace your child's hand and let them decorate it as a turkey for Thanksgiving. Write all the things you are thankful for inside the turkey and discuss how every good and perfect gift comes from God. (James 1:17)

## DISCUSSION

- What are you thankful for?
- What does God expect from us when He blesses us?  
God expects us to be thankful when He blesses us because we have done nothing to earn His favor. All that God gives is good. He does not owe us anything, yet He has given us everything in Jesus and He is a good Father who loves to bless His children.
- When should we give praise to God and be thankful?  
God wants us to have a grateful heart in ALL circumstances, even the bad or hard ones. There is always something to be thankful for even in our hardest times. God has given us Jesus for salvation, and we can always be thankful for that gift, the greatest gift of all.

## PRAYER

Thank God because He is good and all He gives is good. Ask God to help you see more of what He has done for you and to be grateful in all circumstances, even the hard ones.



AND REMEMBER TO GIVE THANKS