

PRAYER WARRIORS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Thank God for the good things he has done.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that they need say prayers of thankfulness.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Chronicles 29:10-20, David's Prayer

MEMORY VERSE:

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

At the end of his life, King David praised God in the presence of the people. Kids will learn that when they talk to God, they should praise him for who he is and thank him for all he has done.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the good things you have given us. Teach us to count our blessings in good times and bad.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

PRAYER WARRIORS

MEMORY VERSE

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

*“Give a lot of time and effort to prayer. Always be watchful and thankful.”
- Colossians 4:2 (NirV)*

LARGE GROUP:

Have the kids read the verse together. Read it normally, then in a whisper, then really, really loud!

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

PRAYER WARRIORS

SKIT

THE PRAYER DOCTOR: SAY THANKS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

April- A TV host

Doc- The Prayer Doctor

April and Doc sit in chairs, angled toward one another, like a talk show set.

APRIL: Hello, and welcome back to the Prayer Doctor. I'm your host, April, and with me as always is the Prayer Doctor.

DOC: Hello, April. How is your three-legged doggy doing?

APRIL: Tripod is doing just fine, Doc. The vet says he should be back up and limping in a couple of days.

DOC: Wonderful! We'll have to pray and thank God for the good news.

APRIL: We will?

DOC: Of course we will!

APRIL: But we just prayed a few days ago for him to get better. Isn't that enough?

DOC: Goodness no! God wants us to pray for our needs, but he also wants us to be thankful. When God answers a prayer, we need to say thank you.

SKIT

APRIL: It's funny you should say that, Doc, because today's letter is about being thankful. A young man named Steve writes, "Dear Prayer Doctor, I am very sad because my grandma is in the hospital dying, but my grandma keeps telling me to not be sad. She says I need to be thankful, and she keeps thanking God. How can she be thankful when she knows she's going to die?"

DOC: That's a good question, Steve. Your grandma sounds like a woman who is full of faith. She's lived a long life, and she is thankful for all God has done for her. Not everyone gets to live long enough to know a grandson, and that has to be a tremendous blessing for her.

APRIL: But she's dying, doctor. Isn't that sad?

DOC: Not as sad as you think! Grandma knows she's going to see Jesus. There's nothing more wonderful than that, and she's very thankful she knows where she's going.

APRIL: Sounds like Steve has something to be thankful for as well.

DOC: Yes he does. I know you're sad, Steve, but you can thank God for a godly woman like your grandma. You can also thank God that he sent Jesus so that you and your grandma can go to Heaven.

APRIL: And, he'll see her in Heaven one day!

DOC: Another great reason to be thankful.

APRIL: Thanks, Doctor. And thank you for watching. Tune in next time and we'll learn just how to say grace when Mom serves up brussel sprouts.

PRAYER WARRIORS

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Thank you notes

Pen

How do you write a thank you note? Let's say I had a birthday and someone gave me a gift card for Amazon. Does anyone know what I would say in my thank you note?

Have the kids give suggestions on what to say.

Sounds like some of you have experience writing thank you notes. How many of you have written thank yous before?

God wants us to be thankful as well. God has given us every good thing we have – from the air we breathe to our families to the wonders of nature. We need to be thankful in the good times when God has answered our prayers and given us blessings. We also need to be thankful in the bad times. When nothing is going right and we feel sad, being thankful can lift our spirits and remind us of all the good things God has done.

God wants us to pray every day. Whenever you pray, start with a word of thanks. Thank God for the big things in life, and the little things. Thank him when you are happy, but also count your blessings when you are sad.

PRAYER WARRIORS

LARGE GROUP GAME

A LITTLE SHADE

ITEMS NEEDED:

A lamp shade, a fishing rod, a blindfold

INSTRUCTIONS:

Attach the lamp shade to the end of the fishing line.

Choose two players for this game. Blindfold one and hand him the fishing pole. The player has 60 seconds to get the lampshade on to his partner's head, with the partner giving directions. If they make it in 60 seconds or less, they win a prize.

VARIATION:

With older kids, make the kid giving directions stand in one spot. Let younger kids move to try and help their partner who has the pole.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Winners of this game can be thankful they had a good partner. We need to be thankful for the good things God has given us.

PRAYER WARRIORS

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Thank God for the good things he has done.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that they need say prayers of thankfulness.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Chronicles 29:10-20, David's Prayer

INTRO

If you needed to talk to your Mom or Dad, how would you do it? Most likely, you'd go to them, probably at home, and let them know you need to talk. Maybe you talk in your room. Maybe you chat in the car. Either way, you can sit down and talk face to face with your parents just about any time they are available.

If you needed to talk to your friend, how would you do that? For older kids, a good friend is sometimes a text or a Tweet away. Maybe you talk online or on your phones. Maybe you talk in person, if you live close by or have time at school. Or maybe you go old school and simply write them a note on a piece of school paper.

If that's how you talk to your parents and your friends, then how do you talk to God? That's a good question, isn't it? Mom and Dad are right there at home. Your friends are right there at school. But God? We can't see him, can we? And we only go to church once or twice a week. So how do you talk to God?

The truth is talking to God is something you can do anytime, anywhere. God is everywhere, and when you become a Christian, his Holy Spirit lives inside you. We have access to God any time we want it. In fact, God is more available than your parents or your friends ever will be!

During the next few weeks, we're going to learn how to pray. Prayer is simply talking to God. It doesn't require any special words or language.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

It simply requires us to be honest with God and to be silent so God can speak to us.

Today, we're going to look at a prayer of David. David was just a shepherd boy when he was chosen by God to become a king. He slayed a giant, united God's people, and wrote most of the book of Psalms. As David neared the end of his life, he began to look back at all the good things God had done. Overwhelmed by all the blessings, David offered up a prayer of thanks.

READ 1 CHRONICLES 29:10-20

MAIN POINT

David knew that all of the good things he had came from God. He knew that all of the good things his people now enjoyed were blessings from the Lord. In front of all the people, David praised God, thanking him for all the blessings God had given to him and his people. He asked God to bless his son, and to use him to carry on the work David started.

David knew that his son, Solomon, and the people of Israel could do great things if they stayed faithful to the Lord. By offering this prayer, David set an example for them, and for us. He shows us that we need to thank God first and foremost when we pray, and always be mindful of God's blessings.

DRIVE IT HOME

Saying "thank you" is one of the most important lessons our parents teach us. When someone answers our request, we say thank you. When they send us a gift for our birthday, we send a thank you card.

Saying thank you to God is more than just good manners. It's a way of reminding ourselves that God is the giver of all good things. We need to thank God on our good days. We need to thank him when we get good news. We need to thank him for answering prayers.

Just as important, we need to thank God on our bad days. When all is wrong with the world, when we don't get the grade we wanted, when we just want everyone to go away and leave us alone, we need to say a prayer of thanks.

Being thankful when we are down in the dumps is the first step to pulling ourselves out of the dumps. The more we thank God, the more we realize how blessed we are. The more blessed we feel, the harder it is to stay sad or angry.

God has given us a beautiful world. He gave us people who love us and people we enjoy. He's made us all unique, and he has a special purpose for all of us. There's so much to be thankful for, how can we not praise his name?

LARGE GROUP LESSON

When you pray, don't start in with a list of what you want or need. Start every prayer by thanking God for all the good things he has done.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for all the good things you have given us. Teach us to count our blessings in good times and bad.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

PRAYER WARRIORS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

When is the last time you prayed by yourself?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Pass a ball around the group while playing music. When the music stops, whoever is left holding the ball needs to say something he is thankful for.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

Who was David?

How did David begin his prayer?

What were some of the things David was thankful for?

Why did David tell his people to praise God?

Why do we need to thank God in our prayers?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for all that you have done for us. Thank you for sending us Jesus. Thank you for your amazing love.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

PRAYER WARRIORS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

When is the last time you prayed by yourself?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Pass a ball around the group while playing music. When the music stops, whoever is left holding the ball needs to say something he is thankful for.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

What were some of the things David was thankful for?

Why did David tell his people to praise God?

Why do we need to thank God in our prayers?

What are some things you are thankful for?

How can being thankful help us to get out of a bad mood?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for all that you have done for us. Thank you for sending us Jesus. Thank you for your amazing love.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

PRAYER WARRIORS

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Fill in the blanks from today's scripture.

Before we ask God for what we want or need, we should tell him _____
first.

THANK YOU

We need to thank God in the good times and the _____.

BAD

David asked God to bless his son, _____, and the whole nation of Israel.

SOLOMON

The memory verse from today says, "Devote yourselves to _____, being watchful and thankful."

PRAYER

David was just a _____ when God chose him to be king.

SHEPHERD BOY

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PRAY THANKFULLY



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

At the end of his life, King David praised God in the presence of the people. Kids will learn that when they talk to God they should praise him for who he is and thank him for all he has done. 1 Chronicles 29:10-20, David's Prayer



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Spend some time with your kids listing the things that you and your family have to be thankful for.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did David begin his prayer with thanks?
- Why did David tell his people to thank and praise God?
- Why do we need to thank God every time we pray?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Being thankful is important in good times and bad. Encourage your kids to thank God for the good things, and when things are not so good, encourage them to be thankful so that they will remember the blessings God has given them.

PRAYER

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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Practice giving thanks by writing a note of thanks or drawing a thank you picture for someone you love.