

Moses and the People

Thank God



Overview

Materials You'll Need

- There are no extra materials needed for the activities in this lesson.



Scriptures

Deut 8:1-10

Bible Truth Objective(s)

We should remember God's love and His guidance and give thanks to Him

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways God is always loving and caring for us

Memory Verse

"Give thanks to the Lord." (1 Chron 16:8a)



Bible Knowledge

Life From God

After the Israelites had been in the wilderness for a long time and were ready to enter into the promised land, Moses had to remind them not to forget God and all that He had done for them. Moses was afraid that once they settled down, built their houses and accumulated some wealth, they would forget God's guidance throughout all those years (Deut 8:8-17). Moses was afraid they would forget that God had given them food and water when they were hungry. He also wanted them to realize that even though they had spent all those years in the desert, they still had clothes on their backs and their feet did not become sore. He wanted the Israelites to remember God, "for it is He who gives you wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers" (Deut 8:18).

When Jesus was tempted by Satan (Mt 4:4; Lk 4:4), He quoted from Deuteronomy. "Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word

that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Deut 8:3). Moses reminded the Israelites that it was God who took care of their needs. He was the true provider of life. Jesus Christ also wanted people to know that even though food can sustain us, it is only physical nourishment. It cannot guarantee life. Only when we obey God's commands and follow His teachings can we obtain everlasting life.

The Promised Land

Moses described the abundance of the promised land: a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which the people will eat bread without scarcity; a land whose stones are iron and where the Israelites could dig copper out of the hills (Deut 8:7-9).

Both copper and iron were plentiful south of the Dead Sea. In fact some of the copper mines that have been found date to the time of Solomon and earlier. It was not surprising, then, that Moses was afraid the people would claim that they had gained their own wealth once they entered into Canaan.



Understanding Your Students

We often encourage our students to thank God for everything. Although it seems tedious and sounds like lip-service, at this young age, repetition helps them retain information. Thanking God for just about everything also helps them realize that God is everywhere and a part of everything we do. We should take care to thank God during our lessons when the occasion arises, to set the example.

Today's lesson is a great opportunity to once again remind the students to thank God, as Moses taught the Israelites. One of the best ways to help children remember things is by having them sing songs. Melodies will help them remember the words and

singing always makes a lesson more fun and interactive. Below are a few songs you may wish to try. They can be found in the Wee Sing Bible Songs series:

- "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
- "Jesus Loves Me"
- "His Banner Over Me Is Love"
- "Isn't He Wonderful"
- "He's Got Whole World"
- "My God Is So Great"
- "God Is So Good"

After singing the songs, be sure to review the lyrics. A lot of the time, children just follow along with the tune and may not actually know what the song is about. By talking about why God is so great and deserves our thanks, we are developing a healthy habit in the children to always remember God as a part of their lives.



Vocabulary

Journey

a very long trip

Blessings

the good things that God gives us



Before You Teach

Why did Moses remind the people to thank God for everything? After wandering in the wilderness for so many years, the people of Israel failed to thank God. They just expected their clothes and sandals to last and work well. They took the food and water for granted. They did not remember to give thanks to God for all the blessings He had bestowed upon them. Moses was also afraid because he knew the people were getting closer to entering the lush and fertile promised land. He knew that once they settled in, they would definitely forget all that God had done for them. Here, Moses warned the people not to forget God, even when their needs and wants were satisfied.

Likewise, in times of plenty, we often take our prosperity for granted and begin to feel that our

own hard work has made us rich. We are the ones who put in the long hours. We are the ones who solved the problems. We are the ones who deserve the credit for a job well done. Why does it often turn out this way? Well, for one thing, we usually become more busy at work when we become "richer." That means we have to devote more time to work and less time to God. We also tend to focus more on worldly enjoyment and less so on our spiritual nourishment. As a result, God becomes less and less prominent in our lives.

But we must remember that it is God who gives us everything we have. God has given us life and He has given us the things we need in our lives. God only asks that we manage those things for Him. So when we find ourselves in an enviable position one day, we should remember the warning of Moses to the Israelites. God is the true source of all of our blessings, both big and small. We should always remember to give thanks to Him.



Bible Story

Walking in the Wilderness

In the last few lessons, we learned that Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and they went on a journey to a better land that God had promised them. It was a very long journey and they faced some hard times. But during those times God took care of them. Do you remember that God gave them water to drink when they were thirsty and food to eat when they were hungry? Do you remember the kind of foods God gave the people? That's right. He sent them quail and manna. Even though the people were in the desert where it was dry and hot, they always had food to eat and water to drink. But God didn't just take care of them by feeding them. God also gave Moses the Ten Commandments for His people, the Israelites. The Ten Commandments were God's rules and they help people know what is right and what is wrong. God wanted His people to worship Him and learn to obey Him. It was for their own good to follow God's rules. Even today, it is for our own good to follow the Ten Commandments. Do you remember what they are? (Allow students to answer. You may wish to use this time to review part of Lesson 9.)

The Israelites were on this journey to the promised land for a very long time. Do you know how long they traveled for? They journeyed for 40 very long years. Moses, who had led them from the beginning, was getting old. He was 120 years old and he knew that soon, he would no longer be able to lead the Israelites. However, he wanted to share with the people what he was thinking.

Moses Talks to the People

One day Moses called the Israelites together for an important meeting. He told the people that they had traveled for a long, long time, but God had been with them for the entire time and that they should not forget God.

"Remember how God led you all the way in the desert these 40 years?" asked Moses. "Even though there were hard times, the hard times were to help us see what was in our heart and whether or not we would keep God's rules."

Moses gave the people an example.

"When we were hungry, God let us be hungry so that we would learn to trust Him."

"Yes, we were hungry but then God gave us manna to eat," someone replied.

They remembered the time when they had no food in the desert. They complained that they had so much food in Egypt and they left that to starve to death in the desert. But God was watching over them. God knew the people needed food so the next day when they looked out of their tents, they saw a surprise! There was manna all over the ground. They were so excited and happy that they started collecting them. Everyone had enough to eat because God sent manna each morning.

"That's right," Moses replied. "Also look at your clothes and feet. Your clothes did not tear and your feet did not get hurt during these 40 years of walking."

The people looked at their clothes and feet. The people never thought about that but Moses was right. Their feet did not hurt and their clothes were not ripped and full of holes. They were amazed. Their clothes and feet were in good condition even after 40 years of walking!

"God really took good care of us!" another person exclaimed.

Moses reminded the Israelites to follow the commands of God as a way to worship and love God. The people listened very carefully to Moses.

"Very soon you will enter the land God promised you. It is a land with lots of water and lots of food. The land is good to farm and there is a lot of oil and honey. You will have everything you need there," Moses said.

The people were happy and excited to hear that this land was so wonderful. They could not wait to go there and make it into their own homeland. But Moses was not done talking. He had something else he wanted to say.

"Even though this land has everything we need, we must remember who gave this land to us. When you are happy living in this land and when your stomachs are full of food, be careful that you do not forget God or stop following the Ten Commandments."

The people asked, "Why we would forget God?"

Moses answered them, "I am afraid that when you work the fields and grow good food, you will

think to yourselves that it was your hands that gave you the food. I am scared that you will soon say that it was your hard work that gave you all that you have. I am afraid you will forget God and all that He has done for you. Let me warn you, if you forget the one true God and start to follow and worship other gods, our true God will be very sad and will not take care of you anymore."

The People Thank God

"We will not forget," cried the people. "We will remember that our one true God is very good to us. We will not follow any other gods. We will thank

and praise our one true God."

Moses was happy to hear what the people were saying.

"We need to be thankful to God for all the things He has provided for us," repeated Moses.

The people agreed.

"Thank you God for watching over us during the journey. Thank you for all the food and water. Thank you for all the clothing. Thank you for our families and for the good land you are giving us. Thank you God for loving and caring for us. Thank you God for all your blessings."



Check For Understanding

1. **How long had the Israelites been walking in the desert?** (They had been walking for forty years.)
2. **What did Moses want the people to remember before going into the promised land?** (He wanted them to always remember it is God who gives them everything they need.)
3. **Why was Moses afraid they would forget God?** (He knew the land they were going into was rich and plentiful. He was scared the people would live so well that they

would only think about themselves and forget all about God.)

4. **How did God take care of the people in the desert?** (He gave them food and water. He guided them so they did not get lost. He protected them so they did not get hurt. They still had good clothes and sandals to wear.)
5. **What did the people do to thank God?** (They prayed to Him and promised to obey God's rules.)
6. **What can we do to thank God? What can we thank God for?** (Allow students to answer.)



Life Application Story

Praise the Lord

Joanne was Nicole's friend in church. Joanne was smart and funny. She was outgoing and loved to help people. She also had a beautiful singing voice. Everyone who knew Joanne knew that about her. In school, in church, and almost everywhere Joanne went, she sang. Everyone enjoyed listening to Joanne's beautiful songs, most of the time. But, Joanne didn't realize that she sang so much that it bothered some people.

One time at church, another church sister went up to Joanne and said, "Joanne, I know you have a beautiful voice but can you please not sing so much? It's nice to have some peace and quiet."

Joanne was mad when she heard this sister. Didn't she know that she had a beautiful voice? If she didn't sing with it, what else could she do?

"You are just jealous of my beautiful voice. That's why you don't want me to sing. Well, I'm going to keep on singing and you can't do anything about it," Joanne said angrily. Joanne didn't realize it yet but she had become proud of her singing voice. So many people praised her beautiful voice that now, she thought she was the best and no one

was able to say anything to her. Nicole was beside Joanne when she said this to the sister, and she was sad.

"Joanne, I know you have a beautiful voice but you shouldn't say that to another sister. It makes you mean," said Nicole.

But Joanne didn't care. She was too proud.

A week later, Joanne woke up with a sore throat. She thought it was just a bad cough. But after a few hours, her throat was in so much pain that she could barely talk. And worse, when she tried to sing, she couldn't.

"Oh no, I lost my voice!" Joanne whispered and she started crying.

Just then the phone rang. It was Nicole. She was looking for Joanne.

When Joanne got to the phone, she didn't say anything. She just sobbed.

Nicole heard her friend crying so she asked, "Are you okay, Joanne?"

"No," whispered Joanne. "I woke up this morning and lost my voice. Now I can't sing. I don't have my beautiful voice anymore."

"I am sorry you lost your voice. But don't worry. In a while, you will have your voice back again. God will make you better," Nicole tried to comfort her. "When you regain your voice, we can both sing songs to praise the Lord because singing is a way to thank God for the blessings He has given us. I'll pray for you, Joanne,"

As she listened to Nicole, Joanne realized why she had this sore throat.

"I'm sorry for being so proud, Nicole. I wanted everyone to notice my voice so much that I didn't care about how others felt. I didn't even thank God

for giving me a voice to sing. I only thought about myself and how everyone praised me. You are right, Nicole. I should use my voice to praise the Lord and give thanks to Him. I should not use my singing to show off my voice," whispered Joanne.

Two weeks later, Joanne's sore throat was healed and she got her voice back. This time, when she got to church, she sang with everyone to praise God. Joanne was so thankful that God had healed her sore throat that tears ran down her cheeks as she sang the hymns. She knew God wanted to teach her something. She was glad she learned to always give thanks to God, even for her beautiful voice.

Questions to Think About

1. **What was Joanne so proud of?** (She was proud of her beautiful voice.)
2. **What does it mean to be proud?** (When we are proud, we want to show off and let everyone know how great we are at something.)
3. **What happened to Joanne's throat one day when she woke up?** (She had a sore throat and couldn't talk or sing.)
4. **What did Nicole tell her friend on the phone?** (She said that she would pray for her and that God would make her better. Then they could sing together to praise God.)
5. **What did God want Joanne to learn from her sore throat?** (He wanted her to learn that her voice is from God. When she sings, she should not show off but remember to give thanks to God for everything.)
6. **What can you thank God for?** (Allow students to answer.)



Activity 1

The Israelites Are Thankful

Look at the pictures. What were the Israelite thankful for? Match the picture to the numbered sentence. Color in the pictures.



Activity 2

What Can We Thank God For?

Look at each picture. Write down what we should be thankful for each day (1. family, 2. friends, 3. food, 4. nature, 5. home, 6. clothing).



Activity 3

The Lord's Prayer

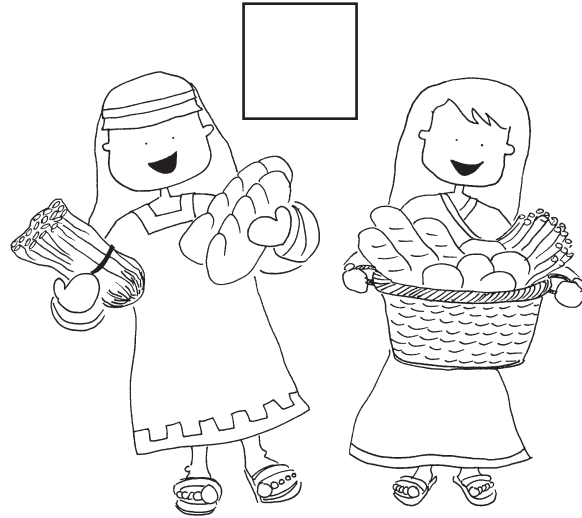
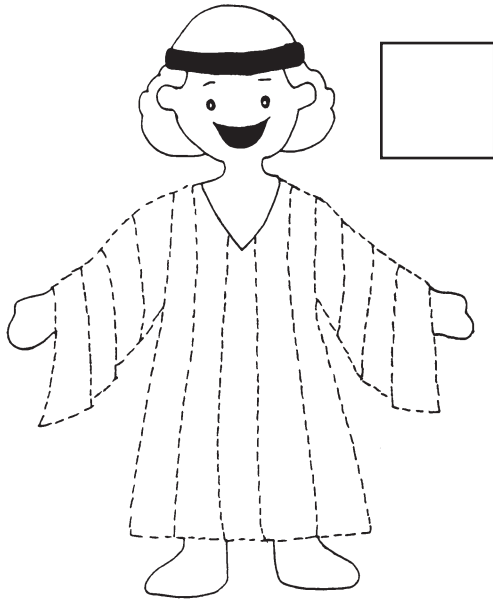
A good way to give thanks to God is through the Lord's Prayer. It includes all the things we need to be thankful for. Although the children might already know how to recite it, it is important for them to know what it means in simple terms. Then they won't be saying it without meaning. Take time after the lesson to talk about the prayer. If some children do not yet know it, this is also a great opportunity to teach them the words.

***"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever.
Amen."***

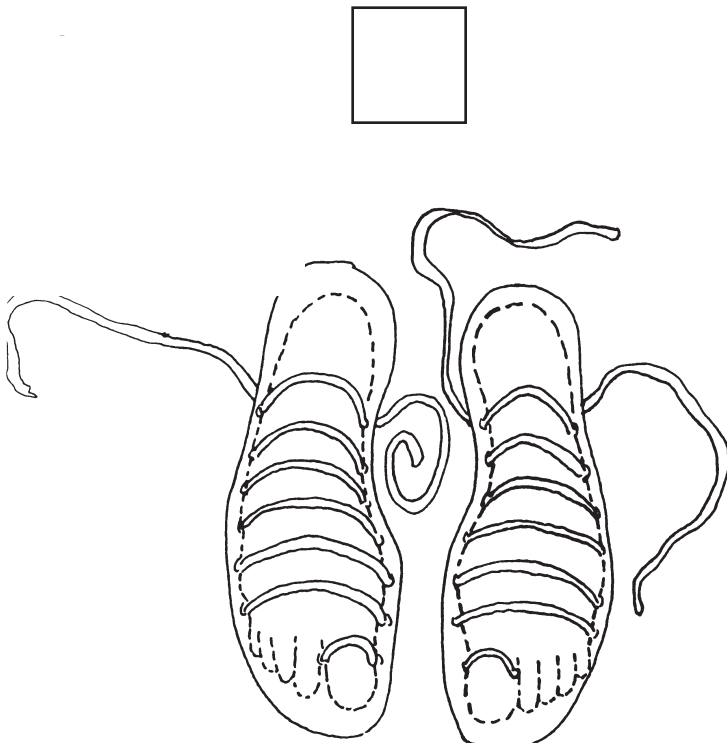
Activity 12:1

The Israelites Are Thankful

Look at the pictures. What were the Israelites thankful for? Match the picture to the numbered sentence. Color in the pictures.



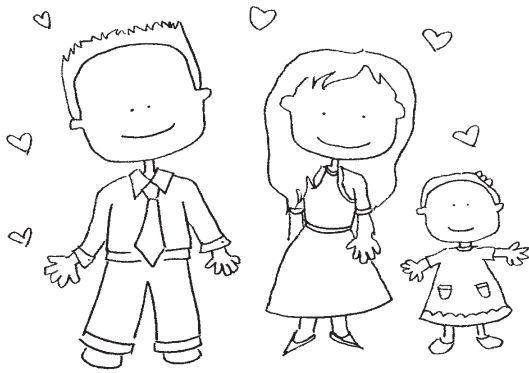
- 1. We are thankful for the clothes.
- 2. We are thankful for the food.
- 3. We are thankful for the sandals.
- 4. We are thankful for the water.



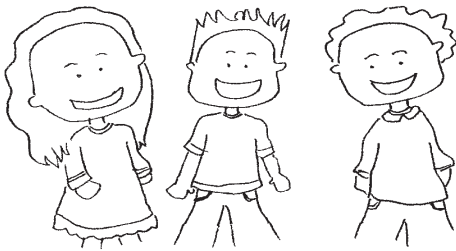
Activity 12:2

What Can We Thank God For?

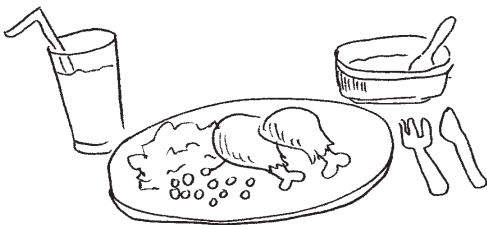
Look at each picture. Write down for each picture what we should be thankful for each day.



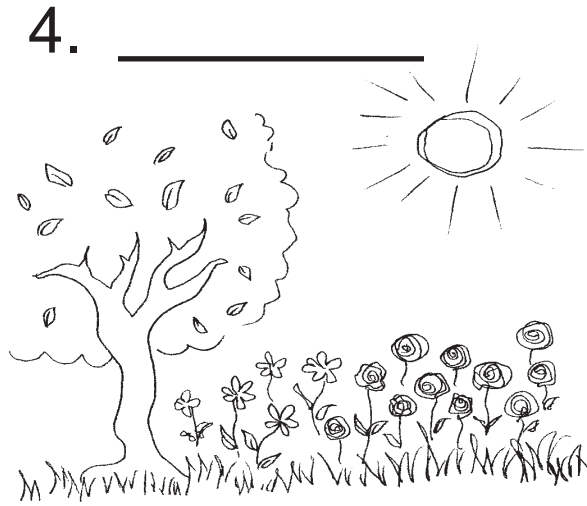
1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____