

Holiday Lesson Series

Thanksgiving Day

Bible Verse:

Psalm 107:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Why We Celebrate This Holiday:

Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks for God, friends, family, food, shelter and anything else you are thankful for. As most people know, the very first Thanksgiving was celebrated after the Pilgrims learned how to farm and fish from the Indians. The pilgrims were thankful that they survived a long winter and now had enough food to eat. They celebrated by hosting a feast and inviting those who helped them. Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving in much of the same way—we have a big traditional Thanksgiving meal with family and friends.

Lesson Ideas:

1. I am Thankful Because: Children will reflect on their life and how they are thankful for the things in which God provides.
2. Jesus Heals: The Bible teaches us how Jesus heals those who are sick and they are thankful for him. Talk to the children about how Jesus helped the people of his time and why they were thankful.
3. Food We Eat: This is a good time to talk about healthy eating. Have the children cut out pictures from magazines showing the different food groups.

Decorations:

1. Decorate the room with fall decorations such as leaves, pumpkins and hay.
2. Place a large cornucopia on the table and fill it with fruit and nuts.
3. Hang pictures of pilgrims, Indians and turkeys in the room.

Craft:

Thanksgiving Placemats:

Take a large sheet of construction paper and make a placemat. Paint the child's hand in brown paint and press onto the paper. Make a turkey out of the handprint by adding eyes, gobbler and a beak. Add legs. When it has dried, laminate and use as a placemat.

Snacks:

1. Have a mini-Thanksgiving feast. Serve turkey sandwiches, cranberry flavored Jello-o jigglers, popcorn and carrot sticks.
2. Make sugar cookies in the shape of turkeys, pumpkins and any other Thanksgiving shapes. Give the kids frosting and fall colored sprinkles and let them decorate.

Game:**Pumpkin Bowling:**

Set empty two liter bottles out in the shape of bowling pins. Give the kids a small pumpkin and let them roll it across the room to see how many pins they can knock over.

Gift Idea:

Give each child a small pumpkin to take home, or make or buy a pilgrim hat for them to wear home.