

for use as
STEP 1
**Lesson 13****Focus:**

We bow down in thanks to the Lord.

Lesson 13**Bible Basis:**

Luke 17:11-19

Lesson 13**Memory Verse:**

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.”

—Revelation 11:17

Students will consider whether their take on thankfulness is sincere, sarcastic, or non-existent as they explore expressing thankfulness to God.

Materials:

- Internet access

A recurring segment on *The Tonight Show*, popular with live viewers and on YouTube, is Jimmy Fallon’s “Thank-you notes.” Rather than writing out sincere notes of gratitude, the joke is that the host writes to random things or concepts—stuff that is ordinary or not obviously worthy of praise, with a “thank you” message that reveals something silly or comical about that which is being thanked. Here’s an example of his thank-you notes from a few months ago.

Play the following video [3:02; start at 0:58; stop at 2:27].

Thank You Notes: Weighted Blankets, Pickle Spears | The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwPgLLHcxTk>

These joke thank-yous are written in a style we understand. Sarcastic thank-yous are a common way to express oneself today, particularly for comic relief. Other types of thank-yous include the sincere and the unspoken. Which of these is most common—which has the biggest impact?

- **When was the last time you *sarcastically* thanked someone or thing?** (Answers will vary. Encourage students to consider how easily thanks can roll off the tongue when it is tongue-in-cheek.)
- **When was the last time you *sincerely* thanked someone?** (Answers will vary. Encourage students to tell what the gift or gesture was that prompted their expression of thanks.)

➤ **Can you think of any times recently when you've forgotten to or should've said thank you and did not?** (Answers will vary. Ask whether students realized right away that they should have said something, or if it took time or someone else's prompting.)

➤ **What keeps you from expressing thankfulness?** (Accept all reasonable answers. For example, it can feel awkward or require some effort. On a deeper level, we may see the bad all around us and forget to look for the good. Other times, we are blinded by our blessings to the point that we feel entitled rather than thankful.)

All of us have much to be thankful for, though we sometimes need the reminder—or prompting—to express it. Today's story challenges us to consider our attitudes and expectations and how we respond to God's gifts, as we learn from one lone man's expression of thanksgiving.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Be The One

for use as
STEP 4 ▶

Lesson 13

Focus:

We bow down in thanks to the Lord.

Lesson 13

Bible Basis:

Luke 17:11-19

Lesson 13

Memory Verse:

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.”

—Revelation 11:17

Materials:

- Index cards (two per student)
- Pens/pencils
- Optional: Internet access

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

Perhaps some of the reason we forget to thank God is that we don't truly recognize who He is or what He's done for us. We may be grateful for our status or our stuff, but God gives us so much more. Let's explore the many ways God gives to us and express our thanks.

- **What are some everyday joys in your life? Do you consider these gifts from God?** (Answers will vary. This could be the basic stuff like friends, family, and food. Or it could be more specific like an appreciation for humor, a favorite subject, a safe space, or a relaxing routine. Remind students that God cares about the everydayness of our lives, everything we see and deal with. Our small joys may be a gift from Him.)
- **Can you think of a time God answered your prayer or you could see His hand in the direction of your life?** (Answers will vary. Maybe it is finding a good friend after a move, or bullying stopped, a relative recovering from an illness, etc.)
- **Have you ever had a challenge in your life that was overcome, or that was used for good, or that helped you grow in some way?** (Answers will vary. Maybe it was a financial struggle a family made it through or a learning challenge that, when addressed, boosted confidence, understanding, and grades. Even hard times can lead us to thankfulness.)
- **God's greatest gift to us is in Jesus—what are some names for Jesus that can remind us of what He is to us?** (Accept all reasonable answers. For example: Savior, Shepherd, Friend, Rock, Teacher, Advocate, etc.)

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). **Today you have the opportunity to take stock of all the reasons you have to give thanks. Maybe it is something small and random that you now see as a gift from God. Maybe it is a challenge you can choose to give thanks for. Maybe it is something God has done in your life, or someone Jesus has been to you. Pick 2–3 things to give thanks to God for, perhaps things for which you've never given thanks before, and write your thank-You notes on the index cards.**

Optional: If you feel comfortable, you can play this song in the background as your students work [5:27]:

Thank You – Hillsong Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSMuZFUL-0g>

When your students have had time to think and write, ask a few volunteers to share a few of the things they thanked God for. Give your students another index card (or invite them to have another ready at home) and ask them to fill it during the next week as they think of more and more things they are truly thankful for.

Close in prayer.

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