

Thankfulness

Introduction

Reflection Booklet

The children will be asked to reflect on what we have seen from the Bible and try to relate this to their own life and experience. To enable this each child, or each class, will have a Thankfulness Reflection Booklet. This will include an entry for each day (except that days 3&4 are combined) identifying what was being given thanks for in the Bible passage and how. Two further questions will help the children to reflect on this and their own experiences. Younger classes may prefer to do this together with a larger version of the booklet, possibly adding post-it notes. Older classes may prefer to provide each child with their own booklet.

Bible Words

The Bible's range of words and their equivalent in English are not the same. The Old Testament word for thanks is *yadah*, which also has a verb which means to cause to give thanks. There is also a noun *todah* which means thanksgiving. However our ESV Bible not only translates these words as thanks but as confess (e.g. Ezra 10.11), acknowledge (e.g. 1 Kings 8.33-35), thank offering (e.g. 2 Chron 29.31) and praise (e.g. Ps 139.14).

In the New Testament the main word for thanks is *eucharisteo* and some churches refer to the Lord's Supper as "*the eucharist*". Most of the NT passages we will look at include this verb or its related noun. The root of *eucharisteo* is the word *charis* which is a very frequent and special word in the NT meaning grace, gift or favour. The exclamation "thanks be to God", for example in 2 Cor 9.15 which we will look at on the first day, uses the word *charis*. Since the stem *eu-* in Greek means 'yes' or 'good' we can easily see how gift (*charis*) and giving thanks (*eu-charis...*) go together.

The distinction between thanksgiving and praise is not easy to draw and a few times we will be looking at passages which mention praise but not thanksgiving.

Songs of Thanksgiving

On days 3, 4, 6 & 7 we will look at and learn two modern hymns reflecting our theme with a view to singing these at the Education Sunday service.

The first song is *Oh, shout for joy unto the Lord!* by Keith and Kristyn Getty. This is also known as *The New Hundreth* because it is based on Psalm 100.

The second is *Give Thanks to the Lord (Forever)* by Chris Tomlin. This doesn't seem to be based on any particular psalm but reflects a refrain found in about fifteen different places in the Old Testament.