

WEEK 4 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

FAMOUS

THE BIG IDEA

When we are thankful, we can give God what we have.

THE BIBLE

Solomon Builds the Temple: I Kings 6:11-14; 8:22-30;
Psalm 84

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, read this!
 - "We Are Royals" (North Point InsideOut)
 - "Sing from the Rooftops" (Vineyard Kids)
 - "Turn It Up" (Planetshakers)
 - "Better is One Day" (Shaylee Simeone)
 - "Everything I Could Want" (Hillsong Young & Free)

ACTIVITY | Fame and Codenames

- Welcome to *Famous*, week four! We are still talking about His Royal Highness, King Solomon, and what he's been up to to carry on his father's legacy . . . especially when it came to honoring God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into two teams, the red team and the blue team. Select one kid – preferably an older kid – to be the director. Project the first page of the printable onto a whiteboard or screen. Print page two, the answer key, and place it in the front so that only the director from each team can see it. Check out this video for a quick rundown on how to play, "Codenames." The red team goes first.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Tweak this activity by activating the use of the gray space indicated on the answer key. If anyone guesses that word, it's game over – both movies are shut down! Print multiple copies of page one and create more answer keys to play multiple games: nine of one color, eight of the other color, and one gray space.*

- Places, everyone! We are going to play a game where each of your teams is trying to make a movie, but you don't want your rival production company to know what your movie is.
- So, directors, your job is to get your actors, aka your teammates, to guess the words from the board that are your team's color in the answer key. But you can only give them a one-word clue and a number showing how many cards your clue is talking about.
 - Let's say the two words you want your team to guess are "monkey" and "fruit." You might say "banana" and hold up two fingers. Your team has only that many guesses.
 - If they get both right, I will mark the words with your team's color. If your team gets any incorrect, your turn is over. The incorrect answer could either be worth nothing or you could accidentally give your opponents a point!
- **How did you feel only getting to use one word at a time? Did you feel like you were able to fully communicate what you wanted to say?**
- Sometimes, it feels like what we have to offer just isn't enough . . . especially when compared to everything God has done for us!

ACTIVITY | Props Department

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a large bin with random objects: kitchen tools, stuffed animals, sports equipment, bubble wrap, etc. Select a group of four or five kids at a time to come to the front and grab a prop. Then, describe a scenario to them, and the group has to act it out using only the prop they picked. Use the scenes below or make up your own!*
- Hey, movie stars! Each of your groups is going to act out a scene from a made-up movie. But you have to somehow work in the prop you picked!
- Sample scenarios:
 - You are on a boat and you're slowly sinking.
 - You are secret agents trapped in an elevator.
 - You are auditioning for a talent show.
 - You are in space trying to stop a meteorite.
 - You are doctors trying to save a patient's life.
- **Which of these was your favorite use of the props available?**
- Think about some things that belong to you. None of these things are worthy enough to give to God. But God doesn't care about the things we have – God cares about our hearts!

POLL | Thank You and Goodnight

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the group to stand. When they hear a situation they've been in, tell them to bow, say, "Thank you and goodnight," then sit down. Keep going until everyone is seated.*
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *After the poll, invite preteens to share in more detail about one of the situations where they were thankful.*
- There are many moments in our everyday lives where we should be thankful.

- At any point this past week has anyone . . .
 - saved your life?
 - stuck up for you?
 - helped you look for something you lost?
 - helped you with your homework?
 - done your chores for you?
 - made you feel better when you were feeling down?
 - given you a compliment?

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

BIBLE STORY | Solomon Builds the Temple

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For today's Bible story from 1 Kings 6:11-14; 8:22-30, pretend you are questioning people waiting in line outside a grand opening. Line the kids up along the wall, pass out the provided "answer" cards to a few readers, and project an image of Solomon's temple.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use the elements from this Bible story and a few images to create a board asking each of the questions. Pass out the answer cards and direct each kid to place it on the storyboard under the right question. Review the story together once the board is filled up.
- We are live at the festival for the newly built temple, as commissioned by King Solomon. For those of you who remember, this temple was the one Solomon's father, David, had wanted to build, but God had a different plan in mind. Let's talk to a few of the people in the crowd.
- **What are your thoughts about the temple?**
 - **Person 1:** It's the most magnificent building I've ever seen.
 - **Person 2:** I agree! King Solomon had thousands of people working on this and it turned out beautifully.
- **Can you describe today's festival?**
 - **Person 3:** Well, the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Most Holy Place in the temple.
 - **Person 4:** The ark had been with the people of Israel since they were in the wilderness. It demonstrates to us that God is with us.
 - **Person 5:** We saw a big cloud filling the temple, too. I think it means that God was happy with this new temple!
- **Do you remember what was said during King Solomon's prayer to dedicate the temple today?**
 - **Person 6:** The first thing the king did was praise God, saying there is no one like God.
 - **Person 7:** He was thankful that God allowed him to build the temple like God had promised his father, David.
 - **Person 8:** Solomon's prayer let us all know that the temple was the place the people can go to pray to God and ask for forgiveness.
- Well, there you have it, folks! This splendid temple built by Solomon no doubt is an offering of thanks to God. This impressive building will not just be a wonderful sight to see, but a place where everyone could come to meet with God. Even though God doesn't need a building, building this temple can serve as a reminder for all of us to seek God's presence!

BIG IDEA | When we are thankful, we can give God what we have.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea and place it inside a gold envelope, sealing it with a gold foil seal and red ribbon. Invite a volunteer to present the “award.” Once the Big Idea is read aloud, play awards music and encourage the kids to applaud.
- And the winner for today’s Big Idea is . . . **When we are thankful, we can give God what we have!**

VIDEO | Famous, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this week’s episode of [Grow TV](#).

ACTIVITY | Newspaper Temple

- Solomon’s new temple made the news, while ours is going to be made out of the news! Let’s get creative and build the best house of worship we can!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to work in groups of three or four. Give each group a stack of newspapers and a long piece of masking tape to build the most elaborate, free-standing temple they can make in the allotted time. Encourage the kids to get creative by rolling or bunching up the paper to create new designs.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Wrap cardboard blocks or boxes with newspaper and have kids stack them for kids who might get frustrated with this challenge.
- These are some cool looking temples! Great job using what you had to build them.
- So, we might not be building anything for God, but there are many ways we can give thanks to God. We can save up our allowance to give offering. We can serve at church by helping set up or clean up. We can sing to God. Sometimes, all we have is our time . . . we can give that to God, too. Because **when we are thankful, we can give God what we have!**

ACTIVITY | The Nominees Are . . .

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Instruct the kids to fill out their ballots. Encourage them to select different names for each category. You can have them share these aloud, or keep them as secret ballots. You can even work these into the Acceptance Speech activity in week five, if you’d like!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a poster with each category written out in large letters and provide pictures of all the members of your group, including leaders. Have kids place the pictures of their friends (using tape or Velcro) under whatever category they like, and be sure to have leaders standing by to explain what each category means.
- Winners of the Academy Awards, or the Oscars, as you might know them, are not just randomly chosen. They are nominated by their colleagues or other people in the same line of work as they are in. Best Actor nominees are voted on by fellow actors. Best Director nominees are voted on by fellow directors.
- So, we can do the same today. As fellow people who are thankful to God, we can acknowledge people we know who have given us reasons to be thankful!
- Think of who you’d like to nominate for the following awards:

- **Best Actor or Actress in a Leading Role:** Someone who gives good advice and helps others follow God.
- **Best Actor or Actress in a Supporting Role:** Someone who always makes others feel better and cheers them up.
- **Best Original Screenplay:** Someone who stands up for themselves and others no matter what anyone thinks.
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** A younger brother or sister who also shows kindness and bravery.
- **Best Original Score:** Someone who is talented in sports.
- **Best Original Song:** Someone who is talented at singing or playing an instrument.
- **Best Production Design:** Someone who is always willing to help.
- **Best Costume Design:** Someone who has a cool sense of fashion.
- **Best Cinematography:** Someone who knows a lot about tech.
- **Best Animated Feature:** Someone who is talented in art or design.

BIBLE | Psalm 84

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the full text of Psalm 84 in the translation of your choice. Give each kid a highlighter or marker and while they read along with you, have them circle any time the psalmist mentions God (i.e., God, Lord, You).*
- You can tell just how much the writer of this psalm loved God and loved being wherever God was.
- They say anyone who knows God and trusts in God is blessed . . . that is, they have everything they need. Being in God’s presence is better than anything we have and any time spent anywhere else.
- **Have you ever felt this way about coming to church or at other times you got to spend time with God?**
- There are times when coming to church can feel like nothing more than something we have to do one day a week. But we need to replace those kinds of feelings with a heart of thankfulness because we have a lot to be thankful for!
- Solomon was so thankful that he was given the honor of building a house of worship for God. We can be just as thankful that we have a place to worship and a God who deserves our worship.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Famous For: Making Us Thankful

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into four or five groups and give them a poster board. Play “Famous For (I Believe)” by Tauren Wells and also project or print the lyrics for each group. Instruct the kids to work together to make a giant thank you card using the lyrics of this song.*
- We have been listening to this song every week so far. I bet some of you have the whole thing memorized already! But one thing we haven’t done is thank God for doing the things that are mentioned in this song.

- The temple Solomon built for God had a veil that separated the most holy place from the rest of the temple, and no one except the high priest was allowed to go inside. It symbolized the fact that our sin separates us from our holy and perfect God.
- But when Jesus got rid of our sin, the Bible says the veil in the temple tore in two — which showed that now anyone could come directly to God. This is truly something to be thankful for!
- So, as we listen to this song again, we're going to work together to make God a thank you card!
- In the middle of the poster, write "God, thank You for doing what You're famous for!" Then, write or draw pictures that show one line of the song that stands out to you.

RESPONSE | Keeping It Reel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out the printable and provide an assortment of stickers, stamps, paint, gems, and writing and drawing supplies. Glue or tape this week's activity to the reels from last week to continue building the kids' "response reel."*
- **What are some things you have that you can give to God?**
 - You can draw a clock to show your time.
 - You can draw a talent you have that you could use to praise God.
 - Or you might think there is nothing you have that you can give, but remember the thing you do for others is also like doing it for God. So, maybe you can't give God your toys, but you could donate a few toys to someone in need.
- Now, create a picture of some of these things you have that you can give to God with a thankful heart. Use a combination of all the supplies provided to make your picture!
- Just like we were able to do this activity using the things we had, **when we are thankful, we can give God what we have.**

MEMORY VERSE | Mad Lib Verse

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On a board or large piece of bulletin paper, create four columns: eat, drink, whatever you do, glory of God. Give each kid three sticky notes. On the first sticky note, instruct them to write something they like to eat, on the second, something they like to drink, and on the third, something they like to do. Have them stick the notes under the corresponding columns. Then, ask one volunteer at a time to come up and pick up one sticky note at random from each column and say them aloud at the right spot in the memory verse: for example, "So whether you eat (popcorn) or drink (lemonade) or (ride a bicycle), do it all for the glory of God." Then, have the volunteers put all three notes in the "glory of God" column. Once everyone has had a turn, encourage everyone to say the full memory verse together.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, there is nothing that we can give to you that is worthy of you. In fact, everything we have you gave to us. But we want to show you we are thankful for how much you love us and for allowing us to worship you freely. Do what you are famous for and multiply the little we give to you into something that brings you glory. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What did Solomon build for God?
- Who wanted to build it before Solomon did?
- Why did Solomon thank God?
- Read Psalm 84:11. What does it mean that God is both a “sun” and a “shield?”
- Name one thing you are thankful to God for this week.
- Name one person you are thankful to God for this week.
- Why do you think it’s important to express our thankfulness to God?

ACTIVITY | Academy Award

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage each kid to sculpt a trophy out of air-dry clay, then cover the surface of the clay by sticking dried macaroni and other types of dried pasta into the clay. They can use an upside-down cup as a base for the trophy. Set up a spray painting station for leaders to paint the kids’ final sculptures gold. Try to set this station up outdoors where kids won’t be exposed heavily to spray paint fumes.
- In the entertainment industry, Academy Awards are among the highest honor to receive. And the cool thing is, it’s not just the actors and directors who get awards — people who did the makeup, designed the sets, wrote the stories, did all kinds of behind-the-scenes work . . . they get recognized, too!
- Maybe what we have to give to God isn’t something big or flashy, and that’s okay! **When we are thankful, we can give God what we have**, no matter how small we think it is.
- Let’s design our own trophies today as a way of saying, “Thanks, God, for giving us the things we have. Help us to use them for You!”

MEMORY VERSE | I Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month’s memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/ICorinthians10-31.
- Let’s practice this month’s memory verse together!
- **“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”**