

## CHILDREN'S LESSONS BEING THANKFUL

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### *Lesson One. What is Thankfulness?*

#### **Objective:**

To lay a foundation for upcoming lessons on different aspects of being thankful, and to help the children to become familiar with the terms and concepts we will apply later.

#### **I. What is thankfulness?**

It is an attitude within a person that comes from a realization of the feelings and efforts that have gone into something. You have a feeling inside of appreciation and gratitude for something.

#### **II. Why should we be thankful?**

A. This is very important to God. To be an ungrateful person is very evil to God. A characteristic of God's people should be that they are always giving thanks. Abraham and Moses built altars in thanksgiving to God. David was always thanking the Lord (I Chron. 16.4, 8; Psa. 18.49; 30.12), and this was one of the last things out of his mouth before he died (2 Sam. 22.50). Daniel also was one thanking the Lord (Dan 2:23) even though it was against the law (Dan 6.10). The Lord Jesus was also one who gave thanks (Matt 11.25; John 11.41). Finally, Paul was always giving thanks (Rom 1.8: 6.17; 7:25; I Cor. 1.4, 14; 14.18; I Tim 1.12; 2 Tim 1.3). The main thing that comes out of the mouth of recovered ones is thanksgiving (Jer. 36.19). (Many of these verses will be more appropriate for the serving ones)

In contrast, the children of Israel were always complaining, and thereby making God angry – Exodus 15:24; 16:2; 17:2.

B. If we are a thankful person, we will be a happy person. We will feel good inside and feel good about ourselves and our environment

C. People will like to be around you and will like to do things for you if you are a thankful person. Would you like to do something for someone who never appreciated what you did for them?

### **III. How can we be a thankful person?**

A. We can say “please.” We should always say “please” when we ask for something. Previously, we saw how things belong to people and we do not have an automatic right to take or use them. The same is true of people’s time and effort. They are not obligated to do things for us. This is why we say “please” when we ask for something. It shows that our attitude is proper toward the other person, and that we have an attitude of being thankful.

B. We can say “thank you” whenever someone does something for us. This shows that you have a thankful attitude and it will also help you to develop one or make that attitude stronger. It is important that our “thank you” is not just on our lips, but is sincerely from our heart. Do you know the difference?

C. We can stop complaining. We should think about the positive side of things, not the negative side. To complain and murmur is very bad. Would you like to be around someone who is complaining all the time? Would you like to be this kind of person?

D. We can learn to give something in return to the giver. This may be another gift, a thank you note, an appreciation note, or just doing something for someone else.