

Thankful for God's Creation

Lesson 15a — Thankful for the Earth, Stars, Moon, and Sun

Lesson 15b — Thankful for Animals and Plants

Lesson 15c — I'm Thankful for My Body

Lesson 15d — I'm Thankful for My Soul

Lesson 15e — I'm Thankful for My Mind

OVERVIEW

This unit deals with the Creation, approaching it from the aspect of thankfulness. The act of creation does not occupy a great deal of space in the Bible, but it is clearly presented in Genesis 1 and 2, and reinforced many times in later parts of the Bible.

The word *Genesis* means "origin." It is a book of beginnings. The word "God" is translated from the Hebrew "Elohim," which is used over 2500 times in the Old Testament. Elohim is plural in form, but singular in construction, indicating a plurality of persons in the Godhead. The reality of the Divine Trinity is made evident in this first chapter of the Bible which speaks of the God of Creation, the Spirit of God moving upon the face of the water, and God's saying, "Let **us** make man . . . after our likeness."

Our first two lessons focus on the creation of our world and universe, and the plants and animals that inhabit our earth. You will want to emphasize why we should

be thankful for these things: they provide us with all that we need to exist. Stress the beauty of God's world the first week. During week two, relate this aspect of creation to things they are familiar with and love: their pets, their favorite foods, etc.

Our last three lessons of this quarter feature something of great importance to every primary child — themselves! As they begin to study the human body in school, they are becoming more aware of what a marvelously complex instrument it is. This is the perfect opportunity to reinforce that thought, combining it with an emphasis on the fact that God created us in His image. As your students think about and discuss the various abilities God has given us, thankfulness for these abilities seems to be a natural progression. As you study these three lessons together, you will want to bring out to your class that we show our thankfulness to God by using our body, soul and mind in a way that is pleasing to Him.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Make a large copy of the Word-Find of things for which we can be thankful (see Patterns). (Or you may prefer to create one of your own.) Display, in large print, a list of the words hidden in the puzzle. Have your group help find and circle all the words.

Play Bible Tic-Tac-Toe, boys versus girls. On a board or wall, have construction paper squares displayed in the tic-tac-toe pattern. Let the children take turns choosing a square and answering a question (teacher selects the question). If they answer correctly they mark that square with an X or O (or B-boys, G-girls). The object, of course, is to get three in a row.

Make different colored balloons from construction paper and add a string to each one (see Patterns). On each balloon write the first letter of something for which

we can be thankful. Put the balloons on the board. Let the children guess what the letter stands for. There will probably be many answers for each letter. Talk about why we should be thankful for each thing.

CONTEST IDEAS

This month begin your contest by giving each student an envelope on which you have attached or drawn a round pattern of the world (see Patterns). Let the students earn points for attendance, knowing memory verse, bringing Bible, etc. For each point, give a symbol card of that week's lesson (see Patterns). These symbol cards should be kept in the students' envelopes. At the end of the month they may turn in their cards for prizes.

Write down the first names of all the students in each class (keep classes separate). Give each student a

copy of their class list and a blank sheet of paper. Have them combine the letters from their list of names to make as many words as they can of things for which they are thankful. The following Sunday, combine the lists of the students in each class. The class that has the longest list of words (correctly spelled) wins.

On your board, put up a large tree with bare branches. Assign each class a leaf color. Let them put up one of their leaves for attendance, bringing Bible, knowing memory verse, or missionary work. At the end of the month the winning class gets a treat. Or, as a class contest, have the students write their names on their leaves, giving the winning student a prize.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Title your board, LORD, WE THANK THEE (see Patterns). Surround the title with pictures of the sky (including clouds, sun, etc.). Also have pictures of plants, animals, and most importantly, people. Frame the pictures with colored construction paper.

Make banners which picture a symbol of each of the lessons that will be studied (see Patterns). Title your board, I'M THANKFUL!

Use the memory verses as your theme. Across the top of your board put the title, IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD (see Patterns). The words of each memory verse will form the shapes pertaining to each lesson.

Title your board, HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS (see Patterns). With the world at the center, place at random a crescent moon and large and small stars. Around the edges of the large stars, write the words of the song, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." Around the edges of the small stars write Scripture references that pertain to each lesson.

Start the unit with an empty board that has only a background, border, and the title I AM THANKFUL FOR . . . at the top. Each week have the students draw symbols or pictures pertaining to the lesson, and attach them to the board. Ideas: star, sun, moon, world, flower, tree, two or three animals, man and woman.

CHART IDEAS

Prepare an "I'm Thankful" book for each student in your class (see Patterns). Use different colors of construction paper to prepare the covers. White typewriter-bond paper would work best for the inner pages. Copy several inner pages for each student. Staple the book together along the edge where indicated. At various times during the month (either in pre-class time or during your class session) allow your students to fill in some blank pages in their own books and then illustrate and color those pages. At the end of the month let the

students who want to, share their books with the class so each student can see what the other students have composed.

For each student, make a book in the shape of a turkey (see Patterns). Cut the cover from construction paper and the inside pages from white typewriter-bond paper. Each Sunday let the children write their memory verses on one of the pages or draw a picture of the lesson.

Make a round clock face from construction paper. In place of the numbers write the letters from the word THANKSGIVING around the clock face. Glue the clock on construction paper of a different color. Under the clock, glue a piece of paper in the shape of a base. On the base write TAKE TIME TO GIVE THANKS. Put appropriate stickers on the clock face each Sunday.

UNIT PROJECTS

Teach the children this poem about God's creation. Here is one colorful way to help them learn. Give each child a piece of colored paper, using the colors that are mentioned in the poem below. Also use other colors for flowers, etc. When each color is mentioned the children holding that color will lift it high for all to see.

God's creation is a rainbow
of color everywhere
These colors show us God's in charge
They show us that He cares

Silver (is) for the twinkling stars
Orange (is) for the moon
Yellow (is) for the sun He made
It shines above at noon

Green plants He made, and trees so tall
He added flowers and food
They come in colors bright and bold
Our world is very good

Then God made people, every kind
There's black, red, yellow, white
He gave us all a living soul
We're special in His sight

UNIT SUPPORT MATERIAL

My Thank You Book — By Diane Stortz and Frances Hook, Standard Publishing
Thank You, God — Coloring Book, Standard Publishing
God Made Everything — Happy Day Book, Standard Publishing
Saying Thank You Makes Me Happy — Happy Day Book, Standard Publishing
God's Gifts — Classroom Pictures to color, 8 each of 6 pictures, Standard Publishing
We Give Thanks — Coloring Book, Concordia
God Made the World — Coloring Book, Concordia