

thankful heart

introduction

To introduce today's Thanksgiving lesson, lead the group in these two activities:

1. Sing praise and worship songs.
2. Take testimonies of thanksgiving, asking several students to share one thing they are thankful for. Have one student read Psalm 150 and another read Psalm 100.

message

There are many different reasons we should be thankful. During the Thanksgiving season, we eat turkey and pumpkin pie and often visit with family and friends. The whole purpose for this holiday is to focus on the things God has done for us, a tradition passed down from the early settlers. What are some of the things we should be thankful to God for?

1. The salvation of our souls— God sent His Son so that you and me could have eternal life.
2. Friends who love us and speak the truth to us
3. Parents— Parents are the chisels and hammers that God uses to “chip” away at the imperfections in our lives.
4. Good health
5. The talents and abilities He gave us
6. Our school, our teachers and our country— In many countries, there are few schools and limited educational opportunities.

challenge

There is a lot to be thankful for. Perhaps, we could list other things that we are thankful for. Besides making lists, let's think about having a “spirit of thankfulness” all yearlong, not just at Thanksgiving. Developing this type of spirit starts by being “other-people” centered. That means looking to others and caring for others, not being self-centered. Plan to do something today that benefits someone else, something that may even inconvenience yourself. Make Thanksgiving a time of practical response to a cultural tradition.

