

## Encourage Year-Round Gratitude

November may be the month when we focus on being thankful, but that's an attitude we can express each day. Even during tough economic times or family hardships, we all have many blessings for which to be grateful. God gives us life and takes care of us. He loves us and sent his Son, Jesus, to die for us. He puts many special people, including our children, into our lives.

Let your children know you're grateful for them—and also that they can show gratitude to you, to other people, and to God. Here are some ideas for cultivating thankfulness throughout the year:



**Live out your thankfulness.** Gratitude is contagious. When your kids see you giving thanks in all circumstances, they'll learn to do the same. Remember to thank your children for everything from helping around the house to helping you grow in your own faith.

**Highlight biblical examples of thankfulness.** Scripture is full of "great gratefulness." Hannah was grateful that God blessed her with a child (see 1 Samuel 2:1). Jesus forgave and healed many people, most of whom were thankful in return. Paul's letters often begin and end with thankful messages, and many psalms overflow with gratitude to God. As you worship with your children, point out all the ways that God's people give thanks.

**Lead children in thank-you activities.** Together, brainstorm people in your community or church who'd appreciate an unexpected thank you. Then come up with creative, meaningful ways to say thanks joyfully. Children can deliver thanks with cards, a prayer, a skit or a song. Be sure to thank the kids!

## PJ PARTY WAS SO MUCH FUN!

Our preschoolers and parents had a great time on October 23 as they decorated pumpkins, listened to stories, sang fun songs and ate a snack in their PJ's. Check out all the pictures on the board near C-Zone.



## \* Birthday Party \* for Jesus

Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m.



- BRING YOUR FAMILY
- 1 PAIR OF MITTENS (PER FAMILY)
- INVITE A FAMILY TO COME
- BRING YOUR CAMERA!

### Amazing Guest Artist

Mark Thompson &  
The Trunk Bunch  
Christian Musical Ventriloquist

### Bethlehem Travel Stops

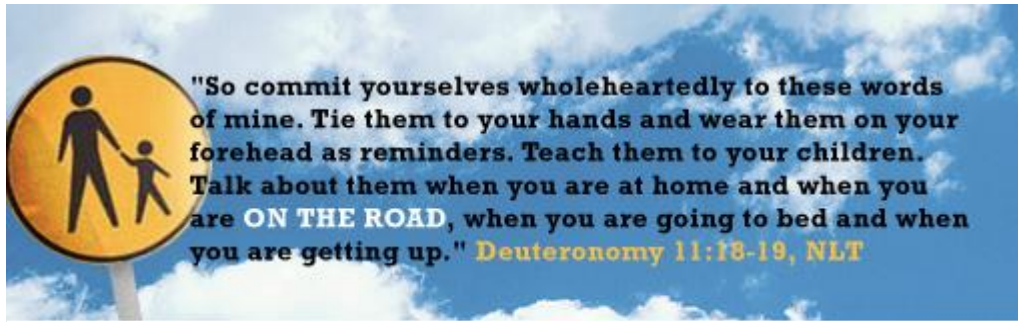
Good Tidings Chapel Theater  
Silent Night Worship  
Candy Cane Crafts  
Gifted Games  
Fabulous Family Photo Stops  
Jesus' Birthday Party CAKE!

*This great party will be at  
Central Wesleyan Church*

**Parents, please note:**

**No midweek club program  
on November 25**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are **ON THE ROAD**, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." **Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT**

## What Are Kids Learning?



### EARLY CHILDHOOD SUNDAYS

Verse: Isaiah 41:10b "I will strengthen you and help you."

3–5 year olds in Celebration Station and Kingdom Clubhouse will hear stories of how God

provided for Moses, Joshua, David, and Daniel in difficult situations. We will also learn that God helps us be patient, do hard things, and have courage.

#### *Family time*

When your children are struggling with patience or obedience, take time to pray with them and ask God to help them. Share with them what you are asking God to help you with and ask them to pray for you. Children at this age take praying for others very seriously and it will show them that you are trusting God to help you too.

### ELEMENTARY SUNDAYS

9:15 a.m.

**PARK CENTRAL** The focus for 1st and 2nd graders is God is sovereign, eternal, holy and perfect and the Holy Spirit is our helper.

**C-ZONE** The next season for 3rd–5th graders is on the ups and downs in the life of Joseph. Focus will be on answering life's toughest questions by studying how Joseph responded to failure, success, and temptation.

**10: 50 a.m. SECOND GEAR** 1st-3rd graders will discuss the virtue of cooperation: working together to do more than you can do alone. Verse: "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in every thing they do." Ecclesiastes 4:9

4th graders will be talking about trusting the God who calls us. Bible passages will be from Genesis 11-26

5th graders will study "The Truth--how Christianity differs from other religions, the salvation message, and how to tell others about Jesus.



### Family Thanksgiving Experience

Use one of these creative ideas to provide a "snapshot" of what your family is thankful for this Thanksgiving.

**Gratitude Newsflash**—A week before Thanksgiving, give each family member a disposable camera (or take turns using a digital camera). Then have them take photos of people or things they're thankful for. (A parent or older sibling can help young kids.) Try to take photos when no one is looking. Come up with creative ways of doing this, such as taking a picture of a person's photograph. Develop the pictures and then share them with one another after your Thanksgiving meal.

**Don't "Leaf" Anything Out**—Cut out leaf shapes on colorful construction paper. Then have family members write about people or things for which they're grateful. Tape the stems onto string to make a festive garland filled with reminders of gratefulness.

## Early Childhood Parents: Reminder

Please check out your children and take the check out slip to your child's class within 10 minutes after the service ends. Only parents and other authorized members 16 years and older that are registered in the family's Parent Pager file are allowed to pick up children.

Some text and images are taken from The Parent Link: Children's Edition monthly newsletter at [www.group.com](http://www.group.com)

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