

General Church Education



We Thank the Lord

Psalm 100:1-5

Lesson 26

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

WE THANK THE LORD

Psalm 100:1-5

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

All the good things we have come from the Lord. He gives us everything we need to be happy. The Lord wants us to thank Him. When we do, we are more aware of Him and His love can flow into us. Then we can show love for others. This is the love of heaven.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ Feasts in the Word represent the Lord's presence with us.
- ❖ Joining with others to give thanks can be a powerful and joyful experience. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).
- ❖ The Lord does not need our thanks, but for our sakes He wants us to give it. The Lord can flow into us with heavenly good when we are in a thankful state.
- ❖ Being grateful for the things He has given us increases our enjoyment of them.
- ❖ Giving thanks is one of the main ways we can open our minds and hearts to the Lord so we can be filled with His presence and receive His blessings in even greater abundance.
- ❖ It can be helpful to thank the Lord for specific things rather than a general thank you for everything.

WE THANK THE LORD

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

The Lord is the Creator of all things.
We thank the Lord for all the good things He gives us.
He gives us everything that keeps us alive.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **Who made the earth and everything in it?** (The Lord.)
- ♦ **Can you name some foods that grow on earth that are good to eat?** (Fruits, vegetables, grain.)
- ♦ **What are some of the materials people can find on earth to make houses to live in?** (Wood, stone, metal, material to make glass and cement.)
- ♦ **Can you name some things in our world that clothes can be made from?** (Cotton, wool, linen, silk.)

Yes, our world is full of useful and beautiful things that we can use to make our comfortable clothing and protective homes in whatever part of the world we live. We also have many kinds of delicious food to eat. The Lord created a very wonderful place for us, didn't He?



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

We know that the Lord gives us life and everything we need to keep us alive. In the Word the Lord tells us, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." From the beginning of time people have found time to thank the Lord for all He gives us. Ancient people thanked the Lord by worshiping and feasting together. We still do today.

Let's read now from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament. The Book of Psalms is full of songs. It was the hymnbook of the ancient Israelites. This is one of the songs the Israelites used to sing when they worshiped the Lord. It is called a "Psalm (or song) of Thanksgiving." Listen to learn some things we can do when we worship the Lord.



Read **Psalm 100:1-3**.

What can we do when we worship? (Be joyful or glad, come before His presence and sing.)

The Lord wants us to remember that He created us and that He keeps on taking good care of us like a shepherd watching over His sheep. He also wants us to "come before His presence." We do this when we worship the Lord, pray to Him or read His Word. We can do this at home, at church or anytime and any place. He would like us to feel happy about worshiping Him and sing songs joyfully. What are some of your favorite worship songs?



Now let's read the rest of this song of thanksgiving to see what more we can learn about worshiping the Lord.



Read **Psalm 100:4-5**.

This part of the song tells us to be thankful and praise the Lord. He asks us to enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

The Lord certainly is worthy to be thanked. He created the heavens and the earth. He gives us our families and all the people we love. But the big reason He tells us to thank Him is because He wants us to be deeply happy! That is

why He created everything. That is why He has given us the New Church and His Word—so that we may be very happy forever in heaven. And in His Word we read that it is good to give thanks to the Lord.

When we are grateful or thankful to the Lord, we stop and think about Him. Our minds and hearts are open to His love. As His love flows into us and we feel it and think about it, we can then love Him in return. And, we can love other people. That is true happiness: knowing and loving the Lord and sharing that love with other people. This is the love of heaven.

This is why the Lord asks us to thank Him. We need to stop and think about all He does for us, all the good gifts He gives us. Then we realize how much He loves us. He truly does take good care of us, like a shepherd watching over His sheep.

Thanksgiving is a special time to think about all the gifts the Lord gives us. It is a time when we can be joyful. We can worship the Lord with singing. We can pray to Him with thankful hearts. "For the Lord is good." More than anything else He wants to give us His blessings—His truth in our minds and His love in our hearts.



WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Who gives us all the good food?** (The Lord.)
- ♦ **Who gives us our families and friends?** (The Lord.)
- ♦ **Who gives us the Word to teach us how to live?** (The Lord.)
- ♦ **Why does the Lord give us these good gifts?** (Because He wants us to be happy.)
- ♦ **Why does the Lord want us to thank Him?** (Because it helps us to think about the Lord and be open to His love for us. Then we can love Him in return and love other people too. This is true happiness.)
- ♦ **What can we do to thank the Lord?** (Worship the Lord at church or at home, sing joyfully, give thanks, pray to Him, learn and obey His Word.)
- ♦ **When are some times that you thank the Lord?**

WE THANK THE LORD

ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Psalm 100:1-3



Project choices:

Thanksgiving plaque project
Color a picture of Thanksgiving fruit



Songs:

Come, Sing to the Lord of Harvest—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-come-sing-to-the-lord-of-harvest/>
Come, You Thankful People, Come—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-come-ye-thankful-people-come/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Use clay, plasticine or play dough to make fruits and vegetables to put in a Thanksgiving basket.
- ❖ Help children thank the Lord each day. Provide opportunities to thank the Lord for blessings at mealtimes or bedtime.
<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/week-of-blessings-for-mealtimes.pdf>
<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/blessings-lord-1-the-lord-our-god.pdf>
- ❖ Additional songs:
The First Fruits of our Land—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-first-fruits-of-our-land-we-bring/>
For Peace and For Plenty—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-for-peace-and-for-plenty/>

Thanksgiving Plaque

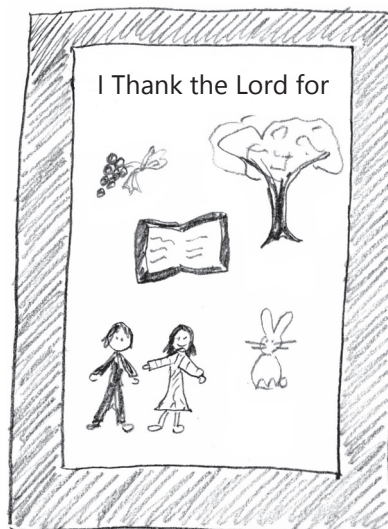
This project helps children reflect on the many wonderful gifts the Lord gives us.

Supplies:

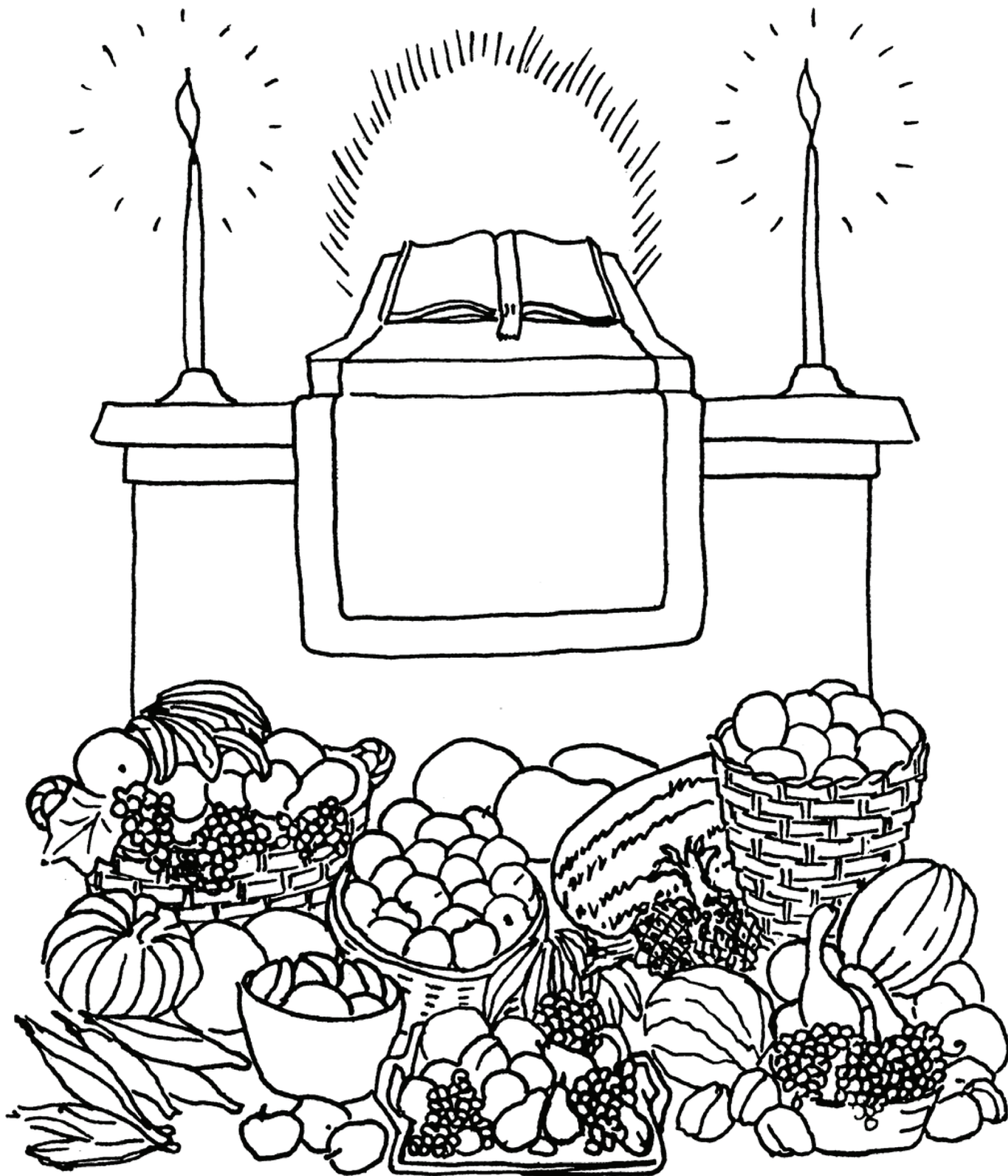
1 printed page
1 piece of orange construction paper
crayons or markers
glue

Project instructions:

1. Under the words on the printed page, draw and color several things for which you are thankful. Think of daily needs such as food and clothing. Think also of special things such as the Word of God, parents and other family members. Perhaps you want to draw a favorite animal or pet or a beautiful thing like a rainbow.
2. Glue the page with your drawings in the center of the piece of orange construction paper to make a border.
3. Put this Plaque up as a Thanksgiving decoration in your home.



I Thank the Lord for



Recitation Award: We Thank the Lord

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

