

# We thank God

## Faith focus

We say thank you to God.

## Introduction

This module contains Bible stories about gratitude. Some are healing stories, others are about food, family relationships, and friendship. Each session invites children to use their voices and hands to say thank you—both to God and to others.

Use sign language as often as you use the words “thank you.” This will encourage children to communicate their thanks, even if they don’t yet have words to do so. Include a variety of table prayers, sung or spoken, before eating snack. Say thank you to children as you see them showing kindness to others. Each small instance of saying thank you creates a culture of gratitude.

The snack ideas in this module are focused on counting. Twos are beginning to say numbers, and some older twos will be able to count objects. They will enjoy hearing you count their snack items. Use similar language each week as you serve the snack: “Today, we will hear a story about 10 men” or “Today we will hear a story about 5 friends.”

## Theme song

“Hands, hands, hands”  track 3

## Preparation

**For Share the Bible story in module 3,** use a flannelboard or metal baking sheet and Bible-times story figures (*listed in Tell-It-Again, p. 64*). See page 15 for further instructions for preparing and using story figures.

**Practice singing** “Hands, hands, hands.”

**Learn the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for “thank you.”** Use it when saying “thank you” in songs, chants, or fingerplays.



1. Place fingertips of open right hand at mouth, palm facing body.
2. Move hand away from mouth to palm-up position in front of body.

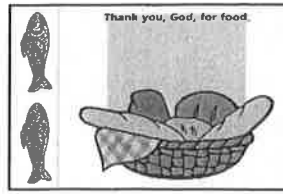
## GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Wee Wonder CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- Bible-times story figures
- Storytelling background (flannelboard or baking sheets)
- Prepared activity cards
- Responsive play materials (see p. 64)

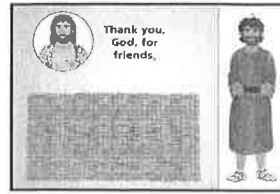
## Prepare the activity cards:



Session 1



Session 2



Session 3



Session 4

## Gather materials for Responsive play

### CONNECT

Show kindness and love to family and friends. Basic supplies are kitchen materials (dishes, plastic food, tablecloth, napkins). Each session, add one or two supplies specific to the Bible story.

**Session 1:** cloth bandages

**Session 2:** baskets

**Session 3:** mat (bath towel)

**Session 4:** dolls

### BUILD

Use cardboard boxes and/or baskets as your building materials.

**Supplies:** boxes, baskets (varied sizes)

### TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

**Session 1:** Jesus, 10 men

**Session 2:** crowd, Jesus, boy, baskets, plastic food

**Session 3:** Jesus, crowd, 5 men, felt/paper "mat," felt/paper "house"

**Session 4:** boy, young woman, older woman

### EXPLORE

Explore the soft feel of cotton balls. They can be like soft bandages (session 1) or mats to lie on (session 3). They are like soft hugs given by a mommy or daddy (session 4). They can become food, like that shared by the boy in session 2.

**Supplies:** cotton balls, bowls, baskets, large spoons

### CREATE

Experience different types of cloth related to the Bible stories.

**Session 1:** cloth bandages, adhesive bandages, or gauze

**Session 2:** yarn

**Session 3:** burlap, textured brown fabric

**Session 4:** felt or fleece

### READ

Include books about thanking God.

*Let's Say Thanks to God!* by Mark S. Bernthal

*Thank You, God* by P. K. Hallinan

*Thank You, God, for Everything* by August Gold

# We say thank you to God

## Luke 17:12-16

### Faith formation for twos

This module shares stories about God's goodness and people's loving response to God, a wonderful message for twos. Luke 17 tells the story of 10 men healed by Jesus. At the beginning, the sick men keep their distance from Jesus, merely calling out to him for help. But after he is healed, one man runs right to the feet of Jesus, praising God with a loud voice. This session emphasizes the one man who responds with a beautiful act of praise and gratitude.

### Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 17.
- Learn the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for "thank you" (*see module introduction, p. 63*).
- For the "People play" Gather option, choose an open place on the floor and make "paths" with several strips of masking tape. Make one masking-tape "road" that leads from the Gather activity area to the story area. *Note: If the Gather activity is in the story area because of limited space, make a masking-tape "road" at the edge of the room. Children will enjoy following the path and returning to the story area.*
- Practice telling the Bible story with props.
- Prepare a healthy snack. As you serve the snack today, count out 10 small snack items (fish crackers, raisins, etc.) for each child. Say, "Today we will hear a story about 10 men."
- Prepare the activity cards.
- Gather materials for Responsive play.

### Environment for twos

Today's Bible story is about 10 men. Older twos may like to count and would enjoy hearing you count from 1-10 as you tell the story. If your group is mostly young twos, say "some friends" rather than "10 friends." In both cases, keep the emphasis on the one man who thanked Jesus.

If this is the first time your group has sung "Hands, hands, hands," simplify the motions: Use just the movements for "hands," "food," and "friends." Add the sign language later. Use the ASL sign for "thank you" as often as you say it. This helps twos connect the words with the body movement.

### FAITH FOCUS

We say thank you to God.

### AT A GLANCE

#### Gather

- Welcome
- Snack or "People play" activity

#### Share the Bible story

- Song with motions ("Hands, hands, hands")
- Song with the Bible ("Jesus loves me")
- Story (Luke 17:12-16)
- Kneeling prayer
- Retell the story with motions
- Activity card: "Thank you, God, for hands"

#### Responsive play

#### Sending

### SUPPLIES

- Wee Wonder CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- For "People play" Gather option: plastic or wooden people figures, masking tape
- Bible times story figures: Jesus, 10 men
- For telling story: 2 baking sheets or flannelboard
- For activity card: crayons, adhesive bandages
- Responsive play materials (*see p. 68*)

# Gather

1. As children enter the room, welcome each one by name.
2. Choose one of these options for children to do as they enter the room:
  - Option 1: Snack.** Sing or say a short thank-you prayer before eating snack. Count out 10 small snack items for each child. Say, "Today we will hear a story about 10 men. Let's count to 10." If you do not offer snack right now, plan to serve it just *before* Responsive play.
  - Option 2: Activity, "People play"**—Set out plastic or wooden people figures. Children can make the people figures walk, run, or jump along the masking-tape "paths."
3. When you are ready to tell the story, invite each child to walk on the masking tape "road" to the story area.

## Share the Bible story

1. Sing "Hands, hands, hands" along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. Use the following motions, making the ASL sign for "thank you" (see p. 63 in module introduction).

**Hands, hands, hands** (*hold up both hands*)

**Thank you God for hands.** (*make ASL sign for "thank you"*)

**Food, food, food** (*pretend to put food in mouth*)

**Thank you, God for food.** (*make ASL sign for "thank you"*)

**Friends, friends, friends** (*hold hands in a circle*)

**Thank you God for friends.** (*make ASL sign for "thank you"*)

2. Sing "Jesus loves me" along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. Give each child one of the people figures to hold during the song. Lift them high as you sing "Yes, Jesus loves me." (See words on p. 271.)

**Jesus loves me, this I know**

**for the Bible tells me so . . .**

Hold up the Bible, with today's story marked. Say,

**"This is the Bible."**

Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.

**"Here is the story."**

Carefully set the open Bible to the side.

3. Share the Bible story.

**Story figures:** Jesus, 10 men

**Other props:** 2 baking sheets (if story figures are magnetic), or flannelboard

**Set the scene:** If using magnets, place 2 large cookie sheets a short distance from each other. Place 10 men on one sheet. You will move them to other sheet during story. If using a flannelboard, place 10 men on one edge of board.

**Tell the story.**

4. Carefully place the story figures in the Tell-It-Again box. Kneel down together, as the man in the Bible story did. Pray:

**"Thank you, Jesus, for loving us. Amen."**

### MODULE 3 THEME SONG

#### Hands, hands, hands

Hands, hands, hands  
Thank you, God, for hands.  
Food, food, food  
Thank you, God, for food.  
Friends, friends, friends  
Thank you, God, for  
friends.



track 3



track 1



Figures  
13, 23,  
and 28  
(Jesus)



## BIBLE STORY: Luke 17:12-16

Ten friends were very sick. *(Place 10 men on baking sheet 1 or one side of flannelboard.)*

“Help us, Jesus!” they said. *(Place Jesus beside men.)*

Jesus loved the 10 friends.

“I will help you,” Jesus said.

“Go now and you will feel better.”

Ten friends ran. They were all better! *(Make men “run” to baking sheet 2, or other side of story area.)*

Ten friends ran, but one friend stopped. *(Pick up separate man figure.)*

He turned around and ran to Jesus. *(Make 1 man “run” back to Jesus.)*

He knelt down low, smiled and said,

“Thank you, Jesus, thank you!” *(Make ASL sign for “thank you.”)*

5. Retell the story with motions, inviting children to do what you do. Start in a seated position, and then stand up when indicated.

Ten friends were sick. *(hold up 10 fingers)*

Jesus loved them. *(cross arms over chest)*

He said, “Go. You will feel better.”

Ten friends ran. “We’re all better!” *(stand up and run in place)*

Ten friends ran. Then one friend stopped. *(stop running abruptly)*

He turned around and ran to Jesus. *(turn around and run in place)*

“Thank you, Jesus!” *(make ASL sign for “thank you”)*

6. Activity card: “Thank you, God, for hands.” Sit down to do the activity. Trace each child’s hand on the card and provide crayons to color it. Then add an adhesive bandage. Listen to “Hands, hands, hands” on the *Wee Wonder* CD as children complete the card.



Offer snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.



track 3

### Responsive play *(See p. 68.)*

Using the suggestions, set up areas for “free play” around the room. After Share the Bible story provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

### Sending

Kneel down next to each child. Use the ASL sign for “thank you.”

“Thank you for coming, child’s name. You are special!”

Option: Sing “Holding hands together” from the *Wee Wonder* CD, while holding hands.



track 13

# Responsive play

## CONNECT

Show kindness and love to family and friends. Sharing food together is one way to care for others.

**Faith Link:** "Jesus cared for the 10 friends. Jesus helped them when they were sick."

**Supplies:** low table, kitchen items (dishes, plastic food, tablecloth, napkins)

**Tip:** If you don't have access to a small low table, cover a large box with a tablecloth to serve as a table.

## BUILD

Use cardboard boxes and/or baskets as your building materials.

**Faith Link:** "We can work together. We use kind words like 'thank you' when we play with friends."

**Supplies:** cardboard boxes, baskets

**Tip:** Children will need more space to build during this module, since the materials are bigger. Store larger boxes or baskets in a garbage bag. If you have limited space, choose smaller boxes like shoeboxes, jewelry boxes, or cereal boxes.

## TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out today's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

**Story figures:** Jesus, 10 men

## EXPLORE

Explore the soft feel of cotton balls. As you rub the cotton balls gently on the skin, they can be a reminder of soft bandages used for people who are hurt.

**Faith Link:** "Jesus was sorry the 10 friends were sick. He helped them feel better."

**Supplies:** cotton balls, bowls, baskets, large spoons

**Tip:** Watch how children use the materials and make necessary changes. For instance, if the spoons you provided are too small or large, substitute a different size. If you need a larger space, place the bin on the floor.

## CREATE

Experience different types of cloth related to the Bible story. Use bandage-like materials. Secure long pieces of masking tape to a table (*sticky side up*). Provide bits of gauze, cloth or adhesive bandages, or soft cloth for children to press onto the sticky tape.

**Supplies:** masking tape, gauze, cloth bandages, soft cloth, adhesive bandages

**Faith Link:** "Jesus cared for the sick. We use bandages to care for people who are sick or hurt."

**Tip:** Some children will put many items on the tape. Others may stick on just 1 or 2 items. Affirm each child with simple words: "Look, you put 2 pieces on!"

## READ

Include books about thanking God.

*Let's Say Thanks to God!* by Mark S. Bernthal

*Thank You, God* by P. K. Hallinan

*Thank You, God, for Everything* by August Gold