

(In Place of AIG Lesson 28)

Thank God!

Bible passage

Genesis 8

Lesson focus

Just like Noah, we can rely on God to help us thank Him in everything.

Lifeline Verse

In everything give thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Preparing for the Lesson

Read Genesis 8 several times.

Pray.

Introduce It!

Teacher One: Hi, everyone! Welcome back! We're going to have some fun making something with play dough, so let's pass it out, and then we'll get started.

Teach It!

Part 1: Genesis 8 in Miniature (5–10 minutes)

Teacher One: We have been talking about Noah and his family and the animals in the middle of that HUGE, worldwide Flood. Rain was pouring down for how many days and nights? (40.) And the water stuck around for 150 days! Let's pick it up there. As I read each part, I'll tell you what to make out of your play dough. Can you be really good listeners and make the right thing? Okay, here we go!

Teacher One shows Poster 1 (Ark poster) and reads or summarizes Genesis 8:1–2. Teacher Two shows them how to flatten their play dough and fold the sides up to make a boat. Have them hold up their boats for you to see.

Teacher One reads or summarizes Genesis 8:3–5. Teacher Two shows them how to make their play dough into a mountain.

Teacher One shows Poster 2 (Raven poster) and reads or summarizes Genesis 8:6–7. Teacher Two shows them how to make a square window that the raven flew out of.

Teacher One shows Poster 3 (Dove poster) and reads or summarizes Genesis 8:8–12. Teacher Two shows them how to make a sun that was drying up all the water so the dove could land somewhere.

Teacher One shows Poster 4 (Off the Ark poster) and reads or summarizes Genesis 8:13–19. Comment on what it must have been like to be Noah coming off the Ark. When he went in, the world was a beautiful place with trees and flowers and grass. Now he steps out and sees a broken world with most of the plants gone, with jagged mountains and rock piles, with volcanoes and earthquakes going off, and so forth.

Teacher One shows Poster 5 (Altar poster) and reads or summarizes Genesis 8:20–22. Teacher Two shows them how to make little round stones for their altar. Comment that the first thing Noah did when he got off the Ark was to build an altar to thank and worship God. Can you imagine how thankful he must have been that God saved him and he had escaped that terrible death?

Teacher One collects the play dough while Teacher Two gets behind the puppet stage. Comment that you're going to hear more about being thankful, like Noah was.

Part 2: Puppet Pal—Counting My Blessings (5 minutes)

Puppet: Come up talking softly to yourself and counting.

Teacher: It sounds like you're counting. Why are you doing that? Are you counting seashells?

Puppet: No, I'm counting my blessings.

Teacher: What do you mean?

Puppet: You know. Blessings. Good things God has done for me or given me. Things I want to thank God for.

Teacher: Oh, I love that idea! How many have you counted so far?

Puppet: Well, I just started, but I thought of five different foods that I want to thank God for.

Teacher: Hmm . . . I wonder what foods our friends here are thankful for. Can you guys think of any foods you want to thank God for? Take answers.

Puppet: They did great!

Teacher: What else will you thank God for?

Puppet: Well, there are some people I want to thank God for. So far, I've thought of four.

Teacher: That's great! Boys and girls, can you think of any special people to thank God for? Take answers.

Puppet: And of course, I thank God for my home, my bed, clothes, books, church, Jesus, and the Bible!

Teacher: Sandy, there's one very important thing you forgot to thank God for.

Puppet: What?

Teacher: Being part of God's family. Have you thanked God lately for saving you and making you part of His family?

Puppet: I guess I didn't think to do that.

Teacher: We should never get over that God loves us and made a way through Jesus to save us so we can be in His family.

Puppet: Wow, that's true. God is soooooo wonderful and amazing. He cares for each one of us and loves us. It's the greatest blessing of all to be part of His family.

Teacher: It sure is! Thanks be to God!

You may want to briefly review the gospel with the kids and then move on to the Apply It! section if time.

Part 1: Lifeline Verse

Today's Verse: "In everything give thanks." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Challenge: Practice the verse several times. Then shout back and forth, sort of like an army cadence, using the following:

Teacher/Person 1: (Stomp, stomp) In how many things?

Kids/Person 2: (Stomp, stomp) In everything!

Teacher/Person 1: (Stomp, stomp) What should you do?

Kids/Person 2: (Stomp, stomp) Give thanks!

Part 2: Go and Do

Draw a picture of someone you thank God for. Give the picture to the person!

Talk to God today and thank Him for as many things as you can think of.

Ask an adult to share about something/someone that he (or she) thanks God for.

Ask yourself this question: Do I want God and others to know me as a grumbler or a thanker?

Optional Song 1: "Count Your Blessings"

Sing just the chorus of this hymn.

Count your blessings (Pretend to count on fingers.)

Name them one by one (Hold up one finger.)

Count your blessings (Pretend to count on fingers.)

See what God has done (Point up to God.)

Count your blessings (Pretend to count on fingers.)

Name them one by one (Hold up one finger.)

Count your many blessings (Pretend to count on fingers.)

See what God has done (Point up to God.)

Optional Song 2: "If You Trust God and You Know It"

If you trust God and you know it, clap your hands (Clap, clap.)

If you trust God and you know it, clap your hands (Clap, clap.)

If you trust God and you know it, then your life will surely show it (Smile and nod head from side to side.)

If you trust God and you know it, clap your hands (Clap, clap.)

If you obey God and you know it, stomp your feet (Stomp, stomp.)
If you obey God and you know it, stomp your feet (Stomp, stomp.)
If you obey God and you know it, then your life will surely show it (Smile and nod head from side to side.)
If you obey God and you know it, stomp your feet (Stomp, stomp.)

If you love God and you know it, say "Amen!" ("Amen!")
If you love God and you know it, say "Amen!" ("Amen!")
If you love God and you know it, then your life will surely show it (Smile and nod head from side to side.)
If you love God and you know it, say "Amen!" ("Amen!")

If you thank God and you know it, say "Thank you!" ("Thank you!")
If you thank God and you know it, say "Thank you!" ("Thank you!")
If you thank God and you know it, then your life will surely show it (Smile and nod head from side to side.)
If you thank God and you know it, say "Thank you!" ("Thank you!")

Optional Activity: Play Acting Review

Do this little activity with any extra time. Have the kids pretend to be Noah, his family, and the animals as they get off the Ark. You may want to use a couple simple props, like stuffed animals. Or just use your imaginations!