

Hello 4th and 5th Grade Parents!

OUR THEME FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER IS:



I'm very excited to focus on thankfulness this month! God is faithful, true and good. I have so much to be grateful for. Your family is one of the many blessings in my life, and I am so thankful for the honor of serving you and your child(ren).

Here is everything you need for your family HCKids at home activities. Just follow the directions on the Parent Guide (next page) for any of the things you and your child(ren) are interested in doing. Also included in this document is the link to the Bible Video. At the end of the document you will find the "God Time" pages for your child(ren) to be able to do a daily devotional throughout the week.

Please be sure to connect with NexGen through our monthly "Spiritual Discipleship Boxes". If you are unable to attend the monthly event, you can pick up your box at church or we can deliver it to your door. Just let me know what you'd like to do!

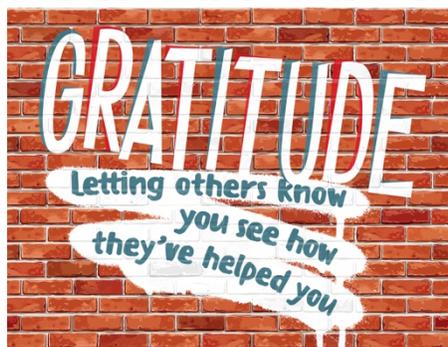
Praying you all are well, safe, growing in faith and thankfulness, and having fun during our time apart! Please reach out if you need anything at all.

Have a Great Month of Gratitude!

Lisa Osborne

HCKids Elementary Director

NOVEMBER'S LIFE APPLICATION:



THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE:



TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE:



Shout Out: Let 'em Know You're Thankful

Use this guide to help your family learn how
God wants us to be grateful.

First, watch
this week's
video!

Gratitude:
Letting others
know you see
how they've
helped you

Memory Verse

Give thanks to
the Lord, because
he is good. His
faithful love
continues forever.
Psalm 136:1, NIV

Bible Story

The Story of the
Workers in the
Vineyard
Matthew 20:1-15

Key Question

What is keeping
you from being
grateful?

Activity

Turkey Trot

WHAT YOU NEED:

Ball, pillow or stuffed animal; kitchen chairs (or extra pillows/stuffed animals) for the course; timer; three identical small prizes (i.e. pieces of candy, etc.)

WHAT YOU DO:

Create an obstacle course by placing your chairs one behind the other. (You could also use pillows or stuffed animals on the floor.)

Let your child run the obstacle course by weaving in and out of the lined-up chairs/stuffed animals/pillows. The only catch is, they have to keep a ball (or pillow/stuffed animal) between their legs the entire time. Time them for three rounds, seeing which round was the fastest. Give them the same prize (i.e. candy, etc.) after each round.

Say, "Wow, you were super-fast! Was it weird that I kept giving you the same prize, no matter what time you got? I bet the workers in today's story felt the same way. If you had been competing on the obstacle course against someone else, do you think you'd be jealous if they were slower than you, but they got the exact same prize?"

Talk About the Bible Story

What word best describes someone who is full of gratitude? (*Happy, peaceful, content, easy*)

Even on your worst day, what can you still be thankful for? (*God, family, friends, food*)

When the pandemic started this year, what could you still be grateful for—even though so many things were different?

What is a type of attitude that can get in the way of gratitude? (*Selfishness, impatience, ungratefulness*)

What should we focus on when we feel ungrateful?

Parent: Talk about your attitude during the pandemic. Talk about the times when it's been hard. Then, talk about the ways you tried to make the best of a bad situation.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, we trust that You are generous and kind, even when we go through something that is hard. God, help us remember all that we DO have. When we feel like things aren't fair, help us adjust our attitude and choose to be grateful to You. Amen!"

Day 2

Read Matthew 20:1-15

As you read Matthew 20:1-15, fill in the clock faces below with each time the owner went out to recruit workers. (Note: for the first clock, you can use 7 am.)



Circle the clock that you think represents the workers most deserving of the full pay.

Now circle the clock that you think represents the workers who should be the most grateful.

Trick question! While it might seem the workers who worked the least amount of time should be the most grateful for the pay, the truth is, the owner paid even the longest working workers a fair wage. Instead of being grateful for the paycheck, the workers who worked the longest had a bad attitude—what a waste of a good payday!



Day 3

If you were to explain the story in Matthew 20 to others, probably almost everyone would sympathize with the early workers.

It's not easy to see others getting as much or more than you if you feel you worked harder or longer. That's why you need help adjusting your attitude.

Think about a situation that made you grumpy recently. Maybe you did some of your brother's chores, and your mom gave you both a reward. Maybe you won the geography bee for your team, but your school celebrated the whole team.

The first step to adjusting your attitude is to recognize that you're not being grateful. Tell God about the situation and explain why it made you grumpy.

Then flip the situation upside down. Think about the things you have to be grateful for . . . like the reward of a late bedtime to watch a movie, or the fun time you had at the class party your school threw for the bee winners. As you thank God for the positives, drop your arms and turn your palms upward to say thank you. As you physically change your posture, ask God to change your attitude as well.

Day 4

Sometimes we don't even realize our attitudes need adjusting.

We might be caught in a negative mindset so we can't see how our attitudes are affecting our outlook, stealing our gratitude and impacting those around us too. No one likes to be around someone who's negative and complaining about things all the time, but sometimes, we don't realize that we've become that kind of person.

Today, do the hard work of finding out how others see you. Are you the kind of person who is always complaining, or do you often express gratitude for the blessings in your life?

Make a list of three people who you know love you and will be honest with you. They should be people you trust, who want the best for you.

Now go to each of those people and ask them to be honest with you: do you need to adjust your attitude? Or do you live a life of gratitude? If you find out you have some work to do (hint: we all do), don't worry: we've got a plan for that tomorrow!



Day 5

Adjusting your attitude takes practice.

It's easy to complain and be negative, but it takes lots of work and practice to focus on the positive. The first step is to ask God for help, but after that, it can also help to recruit others around you.

Form a Gratitude Task Force. Find at least 2-3 other people—a sibling, a parent, a friend and ask them for help. Commit together to adjust your attitudes: every time you catch each other saying something negative or complaining, shout, "GTF!" When someone shouts that, whoever complained must name three things they're thankful for.

Keep the GTF going for at least a week or two, until you feel yourself becoming more aware of the times when you need to adjust your attitude. And when you find your attitude becoming negative, focus on the things you have to be grateful for!