

4-WEEK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CURRICULUM

# THANK-FULL



*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”*

Psalm 100:4-5 ESV

**Thank-FULL** is a 4-Week curriculum for children’s ministry on the theme of thankfulness. This study uses a metaphor of the holiday feast and the traditional foods we enjoy. Each item can remind us of God’s blessings. Children will learn how gratitude toward God is essential for our enjoyment of life. The lessons use the acronym FULL to help students recall what they are learning. Use this during November in your Sunday School or Kids’ Church.

Lesson #1: F is for Faith. Matthew 26:26-29. “Bread and Drinks”

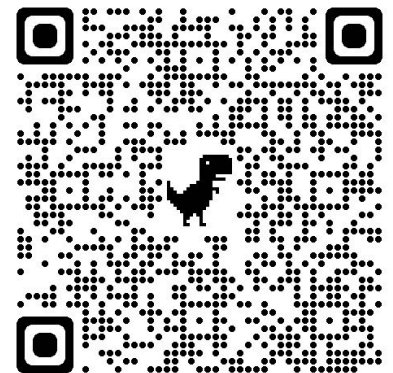
Lesson #2: U is for Understanding. Acts 8:26-40. “The Turkey”

Lesson #3: L is for Love. 1 Corinthians 12:14-20. “Side Dishes”

Lesson #4: L is for Life. Luke 18:9-14. “Pie & Dessert”

You are viewing week #1. This is the free sample lesson, follow the link below to buy the complete 4-week series.

<https://sundayschool.store/products/thank-full-4-lesson-childrens-ministry-curriculum>



**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STORE**

**"ENTER HIS GATES WITH  
THANKSGIVING, AND HIS  
COURTS WITH PRAISE!  
GIVE THANKS TO HIM;  
FOR THE LORD IS GOOD;  
HIS STEADFAST LOVE  
ENDURES FOREVER, AND  
HIS FAITHFULNESS TO  
ALL GENERATIONS."**

*PSALM 100:4-5*

**THANK-FULL**



# Lesson 1:

## F is for Faith

### *“Bread and Wine” Matt. 26:26-29*

**Summary:** We start our big holiday meals with bread and wine (or drinks we enjoy) just like we start our new lives in Christ by having FAITH that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again. Jesus tells his disciples at the Last Supper that his body is the bread and his body is the wine. He wants them to know that they have to make a choice to take his teachings to heart and believe in him fully.

**Gospel Connection:** In this season of thankfulness, children often lose sight of what that word really means and how it applies to our spiritual lives. Before we can move forward in our lives as Christians, we must first have faith in Jesus and his sacrifice.

**Memory Verse:** “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100:4-5 ESV

**Additional Passages and Stories:** Matthew 26:26-29, Acts 2:42-47, Acts 3:1-10, Acts 9:1-8, Ephesians 2:8-9



# Memory Verse Activity:

Thankful Hands

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Copy of hand motions for reference

Instructions:

- Help the kids memorize the verse by creating motions to go with it. Consider adapting sign language, or use the suggested movements provided below:

*“Enter his gates (pretend to slide open two doors with your hands)*

*With thanksgiving, (Put palms together like you’re praying)*

*And his courts with praise! (Put your hands above your head and shake them like you’re waving)*

*Give thanks to him; (Put palms together like you’re praying; point to Heaven)*

*For the Lord is good; (Point to Heaven and then nod head “yes”)*

*His steadfast love, (Run in place and then put hands on your heart)*

*Endures forever, (Roll fists and arms over each other)*

*And his faithfulness (Make a cross with your arms)*

*To all generations. (Pretend to pat several people on the head who are different ages (adult, teen, child, baby)*

*Psalm 100:4-5 (Draw an “p” in the air with your pointer finger; put up fingers to represent numbers - one, zero, zero, four, five)*

- After teaching hand motions to the kids, repeat the verse several times using the motions.



## Bonus Memory Verse Activity:

Make a Meal

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Printouts of Memory Verse and Food Clipart; pens; scissors

Instructions:

- Before the children arrive, print out copies of the Memory Verse Activity worksheet. You can adjust the number of copies to fit the size of your class.
- Write the memory verse (a few words at a time) across each food item on the worksheet. Repeat this step on each copy of the worksheet.
- Cut out each food item and set aside for when the children arrive.
- When the children arrive, mix up the food items and give each child one food item.
- Explain that they will be creating a “meal” with their food items and they must find others in the room that have the rest of the “meal.” If they have a turkey, then they need to find people who have mashed potatoes, pie, bread and a drink to complete the meal.
- Once they have grouped themselves together, have each group read the verse together.



# Lesson Illustration

Faith is sweet

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: A bag of small pre-wrapped candy, questions listed below to ask the students

Instructions:

- Before class begins, let the children know that you have a bag of candy that you're going to give them after you ask them some questions, but don't show it to them.
- Ask them questions (listed below) and after a few questions, tell them you're about to give them the candy.
- When they begin to ask about the candy, ask them, "Who believes I'm going to give you candy?" and then "Who thinks I was just kidding?"
- Hand out a piece of candy to those who "believed." Explain that these students had faith in your word and were rewarded as such. Tell those who didn't believe that they still have the chance to choose to have "faith" in your word. All they have to say is "I believe" and you will reward them as well.

Questions:

1. Who is your favorite teacher?
2. What's something you're thankful for?
3. What is one of your favorite holiday/Thanksgiving memories? What is one tradition your family does for Thanksgiving?
4. What do you think the Bible says about being thankful?
5. What are some ways we can show others we're thankful for them?

LEADER: We're going to learn about some people in the Bible who had faith and were rewarded for their belief. God wants us to believe in Jesus and have faith that his sacrifice on the cross paid for our sins. We are rewarded with salvation and eternal life in Heaven with God, when we believe in Jesus.

Transition to **Large Group Teaching.**

# Large Group Teaching:

Suggested Time: 15–20 minutes

LEADER: We usually start our holiday meals with bread and some type of yummy beverage. In Jesus' time they ate bread and drank wine at all of their holiday meals. Every year the Jewish people would celebrate different festivals and special events to honor their faith and come together as a body of believers. As Jesus was preparing for his sacrifice on the cross, he gathered his disciples for a holiday meal. He wanted them to come together, enjoy each other's company and most importantly, hear what he had to say. Jesus knew his time was short, and he wanted to make sure that he told them what they would need to know to carry on his work even after he had ascended to Heaven.

Let's read what he said when they were enjoying their meal together:

*READ: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"*

*Matthew 26:26-28*

LEADER: What did Jesus do even before he told the disciples why eating the bread and wine was important? [*Allow responses*] He gave thanks. That's right. Even though Jesus was about to die for the sins of all mankind, he still gave thanks to his Heavenly Father.

Then he told his disciples that the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. What do you think he was trying to tell them? [*Allow responses*] Jesus often called himself the "bread of life." He wanted his followers to know that he could feed their spiritual hunger just like bread feeds our physical hunger. When he told his disciples to think of the bread as his body, he was explaining that he is the only way to fill spiritual hunger.

He also told the disciples that the wine represented his blood. He knew that he was about to die for the sins of the world. He wanted his disciples to remember his sacrifice and continue to do his work to ensure that everyone had the chance to receive salvation.

LEADER: The disciples didn't realize what a big job they had ahead of them when they ate with Jesus at the Last Supper. But soon, Jesus was gone and they had to continue his work. Because they had faith in Jesus' life, death and resurrection, they were blessed by the Holy Spirit. Their faith was rewarded.

Let's read what happened because of their faith:

*READ: "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

*Acts 2:42-47*

LEADER: What did the disciples do and how were they rewarded? [Allow responses] These verses tell us that the disciples continued to live like Jesus. They came together with bread and wine and prayer to remember all of the things Jesus had taught them. They sold possessions and helped those in need with generous hearts. And they had faith that Jesus would work through them. What happened because of this? The Bible says, "The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

That's a pretty awesome reward, don't you think? Because they were faithful to continue Jesus' work, more and more people trusted in Jesus to be saved. The disciples' faith benefited them, and it led others to Jesus and the salvation only he gives!

LEADER: Soon after, two of Jesus' disciples, Peter and John, met a man who could not walk. In those times, people who had disabilities weren't treated very well—they were considered less valuable because basically all work was physical work, so someone with a disability couldn't work. They had to beg for money and food.

When Peter and John saw this man, they wanted to help him. The man looked up at them expecting money, but instead, Peter decided to do something bold. *READ: "And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the*



*temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”*

*Acts 3:6-10*

LEADER: Peter had faith that when he called on the name of Jesus that the Holy Spirit would heal the disabled man and allow him to walk and even leap. That takes a lot of faith.

What did the healed man do? *[Allow responses]* He began praising God! Then other people saw what had happened to the man. They recognized that he had been disabled from birth and now he was walking and leaping and praising God. The Bible says, they were “filled with wonder and amazement.” Many of them probably started asking questions and some probably came to know Jesus as well.

Amazing things can happen when we have faith. God can do great things in our lives and for those around us. But, how do we practice having faith? It can be difficult. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we are “saved through faith,” and that it is a “gift of God.” So, let’s think of some ways that we can have faith in our daily lives.

- Don’t give up hope, even when we have doubts
- Ask God for help when you are feeling like your faith is weak
- Read the Bible. Fill your mind with truth and that will help to combat doubts.
- Talk to your leaders about baptism. This public display of faith will remind you that you are a child of God and filled with the same Holy Spirit that was a part of Jesus and his disciples.

So, this week, as you’re going about your daily routine, remember what Jesus has done for us and be strong in your faith in him and his ability to work through you.



# Small Group Discussion and Prayer Suggestions:

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Discuss the following questions. Choose questions that are most appropriate for your group's age and attention level.

- What did Jesus do even before he told the disciples why eating the bread and wine was important?
- Jesus told his disciples that the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. What does that mean?
- What did the disciples do after Jesus ascended into Heaven?
- What are some of the rewards of faith?
- What are some ways we can practice having faith?

Take some time to share prayer requests. Then lead the kids in prayer. You may also read the prayer below.

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us Jesus

And allowing Him to make the ultimate sacrifice for us.

Help us to remember to not only give thanks for his sacrifice,  
but also have faith in his life, death and resurrection.

Guide us as we go about our daily lives.

Help us to look to you for help when our faith seems weak.

Help us to remember that you gave us the gift of faith and we should use it.

In Jesus name, Amen!

# Application Activity

## Bread and Wine

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Supplies: 12 red, plastic cups; duct tape; 3 brown sponges; permanent marker; piece of paper/white board (to keep score)

### Instructions:

- Before class, cover an 8' table with a plastic tablecloth. Use the permanent marker to label the cups 100, 200, 300 and so forth up to 1200.
- Tape all 12 cups down to the table, making sure they are evenly spaced and the numbers are facing the same direction.
- Have children stand in a line behind one short side of the table. Make sure children are at least a foot away from the table so they won't bump it.
- Let each child have three chances to throw a brown sponge (the "bread") into the red, plastic cup (the "wine"). Add up their total points and keep score on a sheet of paper or white board.
- Optional: Winner of the game receives a pastry and child-size bottle of grape juice.

LEADER: At the last supper, Jesus broke bread and gave it to His disciples. He also shared wine with them. The meal represented the sacrifice Jesus was about to make for them: His body and blood.



# Bonus Activity

## Dinner with Jesus

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Supplies: markers, scissors, glue, paper plate

### Instructions:

- Give each child a sheet of paper. Instruct them to draw a picture of what it would look like if Jesus came to eat with their families.
- Once they have created their families, hand out scissors so they can cut out their pictures.
- Give each child a paper plate. Fold it in half and open back up.
- Instruct the children to glue their pictures onto one side of the folded paper plate, as if they are sitting behind a table.
- When they have finished gluing their pictures, they can decorate the “table” in front of the people with their favorite foods. Bonus points for adding bread and wine!
- If students want their table to stand up, slightly curve the bottom of the paper plate into itself to act as a stand.

LEADER: We talked a lot about how Jesus used the Last Supper as a way of giving thanks and reminding his disciples of his sacrifice. He wanted them to have faith in Him and to continue His work. Whenever you see your “dinner with Jesus,” you can remember to have faith in Jesus and continue His work, just like the disciples.



# Word Search Puzzle

COURTS - ENDURES - FAITH - FOREVER - GATES  
LOVE - PRAISE - PSALM - STEADFAST - THANKS

G	I	F	P	S	A	L	M	P	S	O
Z	H	Z	Z	T	H	A	N	K	S	F
D	F	O	R	E	V	E	R	J	C	C
L	O	C	G	A	N	J	C	T	M	E
C	L	Y	R	D	G	D	F	D	Z	S
V	O	H	F	F	D	K	U	Q	Y	A
F	V	U	N	A	G	E	R	R	M	T
S	S	J	R	S	T	L	N	Y	E	O
N	F	A	I	T	H	O	W	A	D	S
T	G	A	T	E	S	V	W	S	C	V
A	P	R	A	I	S	E	N	I	B	W

## Word Search Answers

G	I	F	P	S	A	L	M	P	S	O
Z	H	Z	Z	T	H	A	N	K	S	F
D	F	O	R	E	V	E	R	J	C	C
L	O	C	G	A	N	J	C	T	M	E
C	L	Y	R	D	G	D	F	D	Z	S
V	O	H	F	F	D	K	U	Q	Y	A
F	V	U	N	A	G	E	R	R	M	T
S	S	J	R	S	T	L	N	Y	E	O
N	F	A	I	T	H	O	W	A	D	S
T	G	A	T	E	S	V	W	S	C	V
A	P	R	A	I	S	E	N	I	B	W

## A Note for Parents

Today we talked about the importance of having faith. Not only is it vital to having a healthy and “full” spiritual life, but it is important to building the kingdom of God. We learned about how the disciples had faith enough to continue Jesus’ work. They knew that when they called on the name of Jesus that they would have the same power Jesus had on earth. They didn’t doubt that faith and they were rewarded by bringing multitudes to Jesus. We also talked about how we can have faith in our daily lives, even when we have doubts.

Today’s lesson was the first in a series about thankfulness. We are exploring each letter in “FULL” to help children make a connection between the big holiday meals that make you feel physically “full” and the truths of Jesus that make us spiritually “full.” In this series we will explore Faith, Understanding, Love and Life.

As we go through these lessons, spend some time at home talking about each principle and what was discussed. Guide your kids to put into practice the principles they are learning in church. Some possible suggestions for conversation or activity include:

- What did Jesus do even before he told the disciples why eating the bread and wine was important?
- Jesus told his disciples that the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. What do you think he was trying to tell them?
- What did the disciples do after Jesus ascended into Heaven and how were they rewarded?
- What are some ways we can practice having faith?
- If you’d like to continue the learning and fun at home, try having your own Lord’s Supper at home. Bake or buy some yummy bread and pour some glasses of grape juice. Pray and give thanks to the Lord and then talk about ways they can tell others about Jesus.

Review and discuss the lessons with your children regularly. You might already have a dedicated prayer or Bible time in your home. If so, great! If not, perhaps it is the time to start one. It doesn’t have to be formal. You can speak about God’s truth on the way to activities or around the dinner table. Remember that training a child is a constant task, but it is also the most significant and rewarding one we can undertake.

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and his courts with praise!

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For the Lord is good;

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