

Culturally Engaged

Huddle 4: *Serving with a Grateful Heart*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the "In" slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions.

- Talk to your group about others.
- What are you thankful for?
- When do you thank God?
- Read Colossians 3:17

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out. Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (*Pause and let kids share*) For the past couple of weeks we have been learning about being culturally engaged. Being culturally engaged is a core value of our church and an important part of how we live as Christians. Does anyone remember what it means to be culturally engaged? *Culturally engaged means caring about the world around us and sharing God with other people in our lives.* Last week we learned about caring for others. Did everyone enjoy writing cards for people that we know? I bet they enjoyed receiving them.

Today we're going to learn about serving with a grateful heart. Who knows what it means to be grateful? Being grateful means being thankful for the things we have. What sort of things do you have to be thankful for? (*Let kids share*) We should also be grateful for things we can't see, like God's love for us. Is it ever hard to be thankful? When? (*Let kids answer*) Even when it is hard and we do not *feel* thankful we should ask God to help us to *be* thankful. Every day we have so much

to thank God for.

In our verse today we learn that no matter what we are doing, we should be thanking God. We cannot be thankful and discontent at the same time. So it is always best to choose to be thankful. God gives us the strength to serve others, and the ability to be generous with the things in which He blesses us. When we have a grateful heart, we are able to serve others from God's strength, not our own.

Let's pray that God will help us to have grateful hearts and that He would give us the strength to serve people well with happy hearts!

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

ACTIVITY: Thankfulness Charades

Materials:

- I am thankful for... Printout
- Pen or pencil
- Hat or bowl

In your group, have each child pick one or two things they are grateful for. Have them write down what they're thankful for on the slip of paper and place it in the hat or bowl. They can write down anything they are thankful for big or small, like chocolate chip cookies or a loving family. Each child will pick a slip and act out what someone else wrote down. Once it has been guessed correctly, ask who wrote it and why they are thankful!

Be Thankful Flower Craft

Materials:

- One piece of construction paper
- Several pieces of different colored paper (for petals)
- Markers
- Glue stick
- Scissors

Have the kids draw six petals on a piece of construction paper. On the inside of each petal have them write something they are thankful for. Cut out each of the petals and arrange them on a different colored sheet of construction paper. Have the kids fill in the other details of the flower with marker. Ask them to hang it somewhere at home where they will be reminded to thank God for all of their blessings!



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