

Rhythms of Grace Worship • Thanksgiving Year 3

Theme: Thanksgiving- Offering
gratitude to God

Scripture: Psalm 100

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: Prepare a globe puzzle by drawing a large picture of the earth on a piece of poster board. Color the seas blue and the continents green. Trace the seas and continents on another paper or poster board, color, and cut them into individual water and land masses so that they are like puzzle pieces, see resources for outline

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling page, items representing the bounty of God's Creation (stuffed animals, food items, water, dirt, plants, small figurines representing people, etc.), basket for items, cloth to cover items

Response Activities:

Thank you cards- construction paper, plain paper, crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencils and other art materials to decorate a card

Building with groceries- boxes of cereal, rice, breadcrumbs, and canned goods

Family pictures- cut round potato or sponge, flesh colored paint, markers to draw features, heavy stock white or beige paper, paper towels and water for cleanup

Clay play- play dough© or clay

Regathering: variety of rhythm instruments, *Jesu, Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

Sessions Plan • Thanksgiving • Yr. 3

Gathering: Invite participants to re-create the globe by laying the matching pieces of water and land masses on top of the whole globe picture on the post board. Glue or tape pieces into place.

Storytelling: With the Bible and Jesus doll, and Storytelling page near the storyteller tell the story of the first Thanksgiving and how the people in the New World gathered to give thanks to God for their many blessings. Using phrases from Psalm 100 express that God made everything in the world and all that we have is from God. Our response to God is one of giving praise and thanks.

Response Activities:

Thank you cards- Express gratitude to others: using art materials, create a thank you card for someone for something that you have received or for which you are grateful.

Building with groceries- Using boxes of cereal, rice, breadcrumbs, and canned goods create towers, buildings, houses, etc. Donate these items to a local food pantry.

Family pictures- Using a cut round potato or a cut round sponge dip into flesh colored paint and create faces. When dry, draw hair, ears and other features to represent family and friends for whom we are grateful.

Clay play- Remembering God's creative powers, create something out of clay that God made and for which we are thankful i.e. trees, dogs, sun, flowers, etc.

Regathering: Distribute rhythms instruments to participants and gather in a circle. On a laptop or table, show the following video of a favorite children's thank you song and sing and play along.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7FHbFWKzVY . Singing Jesu, Jesu, participants pick up an element for placement at the altar, and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*
Gather our hearts, oh God
Gather our thoughts, oh God
Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*

Celebrant provides the blessing:

Celebrant: *"Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord"*

Participant: *"Thanks be to God!"*

Storytelling • Thanksgiving • Yr. 3

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller. On the floor in front of the storyteller, lay the globe mat made during the Gathering.

In a basket next to the story teller collect a number of items to represent the bounty of God's Creation see Items needed for list of possible items. Keep these items covered with a cloth.

Our story today is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) and is also about a holiday that we will be celebrating very soon (*or "this month" or "that we just celebrated last Thursday," etc.*)

In the Bible (*show the Bible*) there is a whole collection of songs written a long time before Jesus was born. (*show the Jesus doll*). These songs were songs that Jesus grew up singing as a boy. They are called The Psalms. There are 150 of them in our bible. Today, we will talk about Psalm 100. Psalm 100 is a song that gives thanks to God for everything that God has made. It says "thank you," and "we love you God," and "we are joyful. We are happy." Psalm 100 says that we will sing to God in thanksgiving for all that we have.

God made the earth. (*motion to the globe mat*).

And God made so much more.

Let's pass the basket around the circle. Take out one item, and put it near the globe. Tell us what it is, and we will say, "Thank you, God." (*children remove items one by one, name them and place them on the globe mat.*) And we say, "thank you, God." (*repeat for all the objects in the basket.*)

At Thanksgiving time, we remember all that God has given us. We remember when our ancestors first came to this country and celebrated with a feast. We call that holiday

"Thanksgiving."

Amen!

After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.