



## It's Good To Give Thanks

By Brenda Carpenter

"In all things give thanks..."

1 Thessalonians 5:18a

### Children's Sermon

For today's lesson have pictures of different service people from your community.  
Examples: Police Officers, Fire Fighters, Men and Women of the Armed Forces, etc.

"Today I am going to show you some pictures of some very important people. (Hold up the pictures one at a time and allow the children to talk about each person's job.) Each one of these people has a very important job. Some work to keep us safe, others work to provide things that we might need, while others work to protect our country.

It is important that we let them know how much we appreciate them. Can you think of some ways to thank them? (Give the children time to think of some ways to say thank you.)

All throughout the Bible Jesus shows us ways to be thankful. Read together some of the Bible verses below and see if you can find how they said thank you.

Luke 17:11-19 (One leper returned to Jesus to say "thank you")

1 Chronicles 29:10-19 (Prayer of David gives thanks to the Lord by praising His name)

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 (Paul gave thanks even in prison by singing praises to the Lord)

Matthew 15:29-36 (Jesus gave thanks to His Father before He broke the bread)



## Song: It Is Good

(Words and Music by Mary Rice Hopkins)

Play and sing the song to introduce the Children's Sermon  
(15 Singable Songs, Shorter Version: Sing Through the Year)

(Chorus)

It is good

It is good

It is good to give thanks to the Lord

It is good

It is good

It is good to give thanks to the Lord

I thank Him when I wake up

Thank Him when I lay down

When I work and play

I thank Him 'cuz He loves me

Thank Him 'cuz I love Him

All throughout my day

(Chorus)

I thank Him for my Grandpa

Mom and Dad and Grandma

And those I'm not sure of

Those that I forget

And I haven't met

And my best friend that I love

(Chorus)

Thank Him for the dinner

Breakfast was a winner

Snack time in between

I thank Him for the lunch

And the ladies' brunch

And my meat, potatoes, and beans

(Chorus)

(2 xs)

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## Thank You Banner ~ Art



Have available a very large piece of paper with the words "Thank you" written across the center. Be sure to have available different decorating items for the children to use. Allow them to be creative in decorating their banner for your special guest. Use this banner to decorate at snack time in honor of your guest. If you have more than one guest throughout the month, you will want to have different banners made for each person.

## Thank You for What You Do ~ Craft

In the craft area each child will have an opportunity to make a thank you card for your day's guest.



### Have Available the Following:

- Blank cards for the children to create their own cards
- Photo copies of a picture of your guest (Police, Fire Fighter, etc.)
- Markers
- Crayons
- Pencils

Encourage the children to decorate their cards to make their guest feel welcomed and appreciated.



## It is Good to Give Thanks ~ Activity / Snack



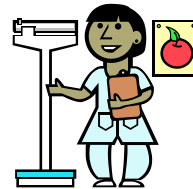
There are so many different people in our school, community, and church that do so many things for us. This is a great time of the year to set aside some time and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Use the banners that were made earlier to decorate the room and have the children present their cards to your guest at a special snack time in their honor.

### Ideas for Your Special Guest List:



Police Officer / Fire Fighter / Doctor / Nurse  
Principal / Pastor / Special Teacher  
Mail Carrier / Secretary / Service Men and Women



### Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for everything you have provided for us. You take care of our needs before we even know we need them. Thank you for the people who protect us, love us, and take care of us.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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# Great Resources for Active Learners

By Mary Rice Hopkins

Featuring "It is Good"



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Teach your children to express their thankfulness to God with Mary's lesson "It is Good."

Here's a Sneak Preview

### Preschool Activity

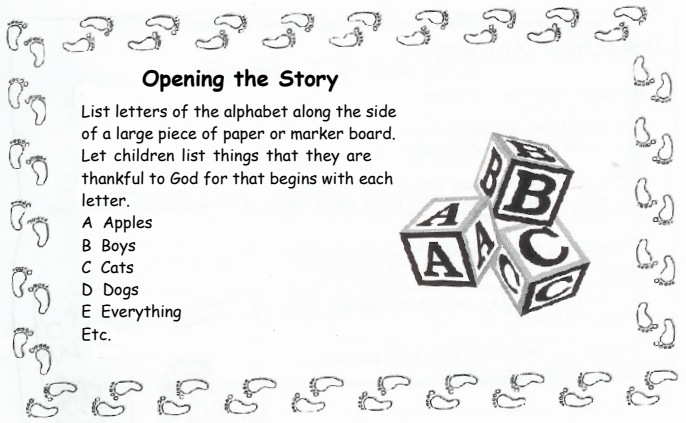
**Needed:** Large boxes, crayons

In Bible Times, the people had a special way to thank God. It was called the Feast of Tabernacles. (Can you say that?)

They decorated little huts with fruit and other living things that they harvested from their fields. It was their way to say "Thank You" to God and at the same time show God what they had harvested.

Today we are going to make "huts" too. (Divide the children into small groups of 3-6 children). Have children draw pictures on their booths of things that they are thankful for (such as their parents, food, clothes and friends).

When they are finished, have them get into their "booths" and sing "It is Good!"



### Opening the Story

List letters of the alphabet along the side of a large piece of paper or marker board. Let children list things that they are thankful to God for that begins with each letter.

- A Apples
- B Boys
- C Cats
- D Dogs
- E Everything
- Etc.

**FREE**....Download the complete lesson from Mary's web site

[www.Maryricehopkins.com](http://www.Maryricehopkins.com)

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