



Thankfulness - content ideas for Christian collective worship

Definition: Christians believe that God loves and cares for them in many different ways in all aspects of their lives. They know that their response to this provision should be ones of thankfulness and praise.

Thankfulness has always been at the centre of the life and worship of God's people. Under the Law of Moses, there were not only sacrifices for forgiveness, there were 'thanks offerings' as well. 'Songs of thankfulness and praise...' are at the heart of Christian worship. Thankfulness is directed towards God who gives and sustains life. Seeing the world as God's creation underpins the way we approach everything in life, seeing it as a gift and not as a right.

Key Bible Character - The unnamed woman



This woman has been living in a very unhappy life. She has made lots of mistakes and is clearly paying for them. When she knows that Jesus is in the area, she brings an incredibly expensive bottle of perfume that would have cost her everything. Without even speaking, she pours it on Jesus' feet, and even uses her own tears and hair to wash them. She is so thankful for his message that she can be forgiven, that she gives everything she has and humbles

herself. Luke 7:38-50

GOD GAVE YOU
A GIFT OF
86,400 SECONDS
TODAY. HAVE YOU
USED ONE TO SAY
THANK YOU?

Questions - What have others done in my life that I am thankful for? What relationships am I thankful for? What abilities do I have that I am grateful for? What does thankfulness look like? What stops us being thankful? How does a thankful attitude make life better?

Key Bible verse:

Be joyful always, pray continually, **give thanks in all circumstances**, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Thessalonians 5:16-18

Bible stories and verses linked to thankfulness		Bible chapter and verse	Key message
1	The ten lepers	Luke 17:11-19 video	Luke tells the story of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. He is probably challenging his readers to examine themselves when he tells of the amazement of Jesus that only one, a Samaritan, came back to thank him. We need to remember to say thank you too.
2	The last supper	Mark 14: 22-23 video	For most Christians, the Communion Service is an important moment when they say thank you to God. To show how important it was to one

			Christian, share the story of Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon. He wanted to express his faith and give thanks to God by taking Holy Communion on the moon!
3	Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.	Philippians 4:6	The Bible tells us to do three things when we're worried: Don't worry about it. Pray about it. Thank God.
4	A Gift of Perfume	Luke 7:38-50 video	This woman has been living in a very unhappy life. She has made lots of mistakes and is clearly paying for them. When she knows that Jesus is in the area, she brings an incredibly expensive bottle of perfume that would have cost her everything. Without even speaking, she pours it on Jesus' feet, and even uses her own tears and hair to wash them. She is so thankful for his message that she can be forgiven, that she gives everything she has and humbles herself.
5	Creation Praise	Psalm 148 bible text song creation story	Seeing the world as God's creation can underpin the way we approach everything in life, seeing it as a gift and a blessing and not as a right. This should apply to everything in God's world including the things that are really easy to overlook. Explain to the children the term 'taking things for granted'. If we are really thankful for the world we live in, then we need to show this by looking after it
6	David's Prayers	video Psalm 100: 1-5	In the Psalms, no matter what David was facing, he outpoured gratitude to God. As he encountered good times and bad times, David always turned back to the truth of God's goodness. This attitude often carried him through the hardest of situations.
7	Daniel	Daniel 2:23 video	King Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream. He couldn't understand it so demanded that the magicians and wise men of Babylon explain it to him. Nobody could except Daniel—who understands that this wisdom is given to him from God. Daniel thanks God when he shows him the meaning of the dream. He understood all wisdom comes from God. For interpreting the king's dream, Daniel is made the ruler of all Babylon's wise men.
8	Lazarus	John 11:41 video	Right before raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus thanks God for hearing him. Jesus often gave thanks to God before performing a miracle.

9	Paul gets shipwrecked	Acts 27 video	Paul's ship is about to be wrecked, and everyone aboard knows it. But that night, an angel appeared to Paul in a dream, assuring him no one would die. The storm raged on and the ship looked like it would be dashed against rocks. They dropped four anchors and prayed for daylight. No one had eaten for 14 days, and just before sunrise, Paul urged everyone to eat to regain strength. In the midst of the storm, Paul took bread, gave thanks to God before the entire ship, broke the bread and distributed it. The next day, all 276 aboard made it safely to shore. If Paul gave thanks not after the storm had passed, but right in the midst, we can give thanks in our storm as well.
10	Paul says thank you for his friends	Ephesians 1:15-19 bible text	It is good to express our thankfulness to others. The Bible instructs us to encourage one another often. Paul, in his multiple letters to the churches he was leading, always reminds his friends how thankful he is for them. Usually, following his words of thanks are words of encouragement to help build them up. Thanks and giving go hand in hand. God can use us to share his love with others by simply sharing words of gratitude and support.
11	Jonah gave thanks in the belly of a fish.	Jonah 2 video	God had told Jonah to go warn Nineveh. Instead, Jonah jumped on the next ship to Tarsus. When a violent storm threatened to capsize the ship, Jonah knew it was God's judgment for him and told the sailors to throw him overboard. He was promptly swallowed by a large fish. Jonah could have sulked or given up, but in the belly of the fish, he said sorry and thanked God. After Jonah's prayer with gratitude, God commanded the great fish to spit him up on dry land and Jonah headed to Nineveh to preach as God intended.