**1. Motivate**

What past event in your life are you now thankful for?

* receiving Christ as Savior
* meeting, marrying my spouse
* school
* first job as a young person
* eventual long-term job
* parents moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* opportunity to travel
* time in the armed forces

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_i3ze0gop> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/2p9pjcut>

* scholarship to college
* changing majors in college

**2. Transition**

When we look back on our lives, we see how God made possible many good things.

* We are challenged today to give thanks for the ways God has been and still is at work in your life.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God Redeems Us

Listen for reasons to give thanks.

Psalm 107:1-3 (NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say this-- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, 3 those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

We see here the action the people are called to and why.

* Exhortation to give thanks to the Lord
* Because – God is *good* and His *love endures* forever

How has God shown you that He is good?

* protection
* provision
* health, healing
* blessings to our family
* keeps His promises
* answers prayer

Given that the psalmist was a Jewish person from Old Testament times, who are the redeemed he is writing about?

* to be redeemed is to be bought out of bondage, slavery
* could be referring to being set free from slavery in Egypt
* could be talking about those exiled to Babylon

If we think of the psalm as speaking to us, who are the redeemed, from what have they been redeemed?

* it is *believers* who are redeemed
* those of us who have placed our faith in Christ
* we are set free from the penalty of sin AND the power of sin

Who are the “foes” he talks about, for the people of Israel and for us?

* nations around Israel
* peoples who initially resisted their takeover of Canaan
* for the church, people of the world who resist the kingdom of God
* for believers, Satan is our foe
* sometimes our own fleshly desires are our foes

⇨ Give thanks to God for setting us free from our foes!

When is it easy to recall God’s goodness?

* right after He has answered a prayer or rescued us
* when we are enjoying good times
* when we have lots of goodness to enjoy

When is it hard to recall God’s goodness?

* when there doesn’t seem to be a lot of goodness going around
* when things are going badly
* during illness, loss, discouragement
* when we begin to take good times for granted – “I deserve it, I earned it, I did good”

When you don’t have a paycheck or don’t have nice things, how do you thank God?

* praise Him for who He is – for His attributes – His power, authority, His love
* thank Him for your salvation
* thank Him for His promises
* tell Him you are trusting Him for your daily needs – you are depending on His sufficiency

What can we do to get back into recalling God’s goodness?

* make it a regular practice to thank God for all kinds of things
* as you walk by a flowering plant, thank God for the beauty of nature
* when you receive that regular paycheck, thank God for the job He has provided
* walk through your house and thank God for all the good things He has provided

3.2 God Leads Us

Listen for how God leads.

Psalm 107:4-7 (NIV) Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. 5 They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. 6 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. 7 He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

Note the situation of the group spoken of in these verses.

* Wandering in the wilderness
* Cannot find a city to settle down
* Hungry and thirsty
* Lives ebbing away

To what spiritual situation can these verses speak?

* wandering in your life, cannot find a good job, a good place to live
* spiritual hunger and thirst
* wanting peace and joy in your life, cannot find it
* feel like you are wasting away spiritually, emotionally
* broken relationships
* passing of close family or friend
* your own or someone close to you in severe physical decline

They cried out in their time of trouble. What was the Lord’s response?

* He delivered them from their distress
* He led them
* took them straight to where they needed to be
* gave them a place to settle

Consider the difference between whining (grumbling) and crying out to the Lord (lamenting) during trouble?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Whining, Grumbling | Lamenting, Crying Out |
| * Presupposes you are entitled to something * Contains selfish motives * “I want what I want when I want it … now” * Springs from a bad attitude * Ungrateful attitude | Comes from a heart that admits you don’t deserve nothing  An attitude of humility  Honest-to-God dialogue, wrestling with god  Giving God the opportunity to teach you from the situation |

⇨ Remember … thank God for His leading. He gives direction when you cry out to Him.

3.3 God Gives Everything Good

Listen for good things God gives.

Psalm 107:8-9 (NIV) Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, 9 for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Once again, the psalmist appeals for us to give thanks.

* For God’s love
* For God’s working in our lives

What does the Lord do for us that we cannot do for ourselves?

* forgiveness of sin
* removes the penalty of sin
* rescue, free us from the power of sin
* scripture speaks of God’s law being “written on your heart”
* God gives the motivation, the direction, the power to do the right thing

What are the good things for which we are “hungry” and “thirsty” at the deepest level?

* peace – with God, within ourselves, with family members, within our communities, within our nation
* joy
* friendship, relationships
* ability to provide for our families
* shelter, food, safety

How can our attitudes and actions help others recognize God as the giver of all good things?

* when people commend you for something you have done, thank them for the words of encouragement, but give God the credit
* quick to give God the credit or glory for good things that happen – it’s not just “luck”
* quick to declare you are trusting God when in the midst of trials, troubles
* no whining, grumbling, mumbling, complaining … even when it’s a bad situation
* when it

What are some situations where knowing that “God is always at work for your good” is something you really need to hear and be convinced of?

* the doctor gives you a very negative diagnosis
* when you lose your job
* when you lose a family member suddenly and tragically
* when a natural disaster takes away everything
* when everything seems to be going wrong at once

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Qr code

Description automatically generatedApplication

Recall.

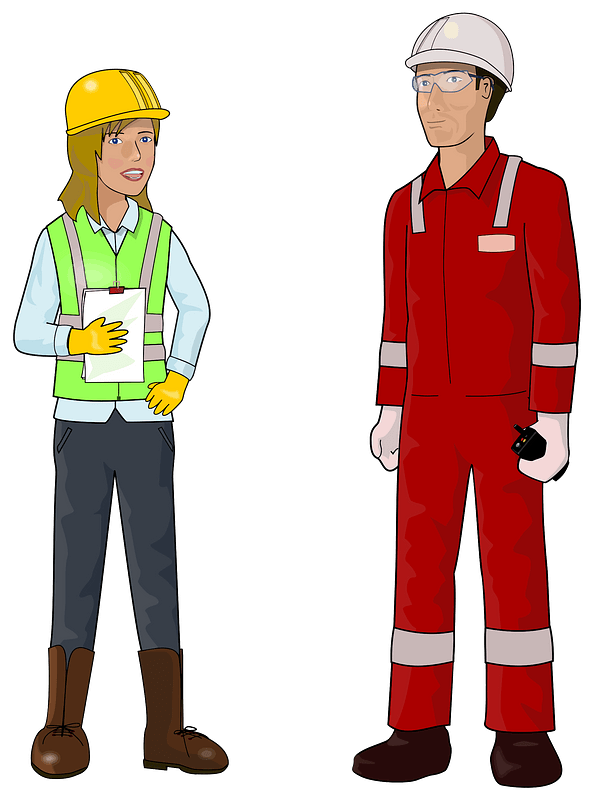
* Think of crises in your life in which God was working all things for good, even if you did not realize it in those moments.
* Pray and thank God for His good work in your life.

Write.

* Who did God use to help you through one of those crisis moments?
* This week, drop that person a note; let him or her know how thankful you are.

Respond.

* God often uses people as a conduit of His goodness.
* Who do you know who are sick, grieving, hungry, or hurting?
* Reach out and offer tangible support or assistance this week to at least one person who is going through a crisis.
* Both of you will be thankful for what you did.

A picture containing crossword puzzle, text

Description automatically generatedA picture containing text

Description automatically generated

Fallen Phrases Puzzle

Oh no … the fasteners on the marquee let loose and most of the letters fell straight down. Help us out, please. Look for single letter columns, then check shorter words and see what letters make sense in those columns. A free movie for you if you can fix it for us! Help and other Fun Family Activities at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9pjcut>