

THANKFULNESS

“Lemon and the Kite Flying Catastrophe”

Understanding Thankfulness from Your Child’s Point of View:

“Lemon and the Kite Flying Catastrophe” helps children begin to understand what it means to give thanks. When Lemon Lion’s doll, Mrs. Toddy, is carried off by a kite, Lemon searches all day to find her. She then enlists the help of her friends, but she forgets to say “thank you” to those who try to help. Meanwhile, Bubba is frustrated that he can’t catch a ball or jump rope and begins to think he can’t do anything right. Mr. Quigley reminds Bubba that God has given him special abilities, and helps him to see that God loves him no matter what. When Lemon finds Mrs. Toddy at the top of the flagpole, Bubba is the only one who can climb to the top and rescue her. Lemon thanks Bubba and is reminded to thank all the others who helped her. Bubba learns to be thankful for who God made him to be. And, finally, Doc helps Trundle learn to be thankful for all the things Mr. Quigley does to take care of him.

“Thankfulness” helps children begin to understand what it means to give thanks. Here are some things to consider in teaching your child about thankfulness.



3 & 4 year-olds have a very hard time understanding “thank you.” Part of this is because “thank you” implies knowing that the other person intended to be kind or to share. A very young child does not think from the other person’s point of view. Adults can best help young children learn about being thankful by saying “thank you” to them for the things they do.



5 & 6 year-olds are still very concrete thinkers. Parents can help them be thankful by encouraging them to think about the things for which they can be thankful. Parents can also help youngsters think about concrete ways to say thank you, such as with telephone calls, greeting cards, drawing special pictures, etc. Families may want to have a time of thankfulness to God before meals and at bedtime.



7 & 9 year-olds will begin to get good feelings from the reactions people have when they say “thank you.” Adults still need to model saying “thanks,” but youngsters will say it more spontaneously. We can talk about how other people feel when people say “thanks” to us. Times at church when everyone says “thank you” to God will be times for children to discover and choose to affiliate with the values and faith of their parents.

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Follow Up Activities for You and Your Child

During the video, you may want to occasionally stop it and ask your children: “What do you think you would do (or feel or say) in this story?” Then, watch how the program ends.

After the program, you may want to try these activities:

- 1 Make a list of all the things that you can do and like to do. Use your lists in prayer to thank God for making you the one and only you.
- 2 Write notes to say “thank you” to people you appreciate for the things they do.
- 3 For younger children, parents could write while the children dictate a letter. This is a good time for adults to write letters, too, to those who were influential in their growth and spiritual development when they were young.
- 4 Write a family prayer of thanksgiving to God. After each line say something for which you are thankful, such as “For our dog, Skipper, and our goldfish Jake,” you can all say together “We thank you God.”
- 5 Make and fly a kite together and follow the safety rules.
- 6 Learn and sing together one of the songs from “Lemon and the Kite Flying Catastrophe.”



Supplemental Materials for You and Your Child

Additional resources and can be found at: www.quigleysvillage.net