



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – Sunday, October 11, 2026

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for young children (ages 4–8) and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings** for **October 11, 2026 – Harvest Thanksgiving (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19; Preface of the Lord's Day

✨ Sunday School Lesson Plan

Harvest Thanksgiving – October 11, 2026

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary

- Deuteronomy 8:7-18
- Psalm 65
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Luke 17:11-19

Lesson Title: THANK YOU, GOD!

Theme: Thanking God for all the good gifts God gives us.

Big Idea: Everything we have is a gift from God. Like the thankful person who returned to Jesus, we can notice God's goodness and remember to say, **"Thank you!"**

Lesson Focus for Kids:



God gives us good things.



God provides food for us.



God loves and cares for us.



We can remember to say, "Thank you, God!"



We can generously share God's gifts with others.

Scripture Readings — Kid-Friendly Language

Deuteronomy 8:7–18

Remember Who Gives the Gifts

God’s people were going to a beautiful new land.

Moses told them that it would be a land with:

 streams of water,
 wheat and barley,
 grapes,
 fruit trees,
 and plenty of good food.

Moses said:

“When you have eaten your fill, bless the Lord your God.”

But Moses gave the people an important warning.

“When you have lots of good things, don’t forget God.”

They might begin thinking:

“Look at everything I have! I did all this myself!”

Moses reminded them:

“Remember the Lord your God.”

God had cared for them and given them the ability to grow, work, and prosper.

Kid Connection

Look at all the wonderful things we have!

Food.

Water.

Homes.

Families and friends.

Our church.

Creation.

Our abilities.

Instead of saying:

“This is all mine!”

we can remember:

“Thank you, God!”

Psalm 65

God Waters the Earth

Psalm 65 is a beautiful harvest song.

It praises God for caring for creation.

God sends rain.

The earth produces food.

Fields are filled with crops.

Pastures become green.

The hills seem to sing with joy.

The valleys are covered with grain.

The whole earth seems to shout:

“Thank you, God!”

Kid Connection

At Harvest Thanksgiving we look around at God's wonderful world and remember:

 Rain helps things grow.

 Sunshine helps things grow.

 Seeds become plants.

 Plants provide food.

 Animals provide food and other things we need.

 People work to grow, harvest, transport, prepare, and share our food.

There are many reasons to give thanks!

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

Paul encouraged Christians to be generous.

God gives us good things, and we can use what we have to help other people.

Paul wrote:

“God loves a cheerful giver.”

That doesn't mean we have to give away everything we own.

It means that generosity can come from a thankful heart.

When we know that God has been generous to us, we can become generous people too.

Kid Connection

We can share:

 our crayons,
 our toys,
 our food,
 our time,
 our kindness,
 and our love.

We can give joyfully because:

God has given us so much!

Luke 17:11–19

The One Who Came Back to Say Thank You

One day Jesus was travelling toward Jerusalem.

As Jesus entered a village, ten people who were sick called out to him:

“Jesus! Please help us!”

Jesus saw them.

He told them to go and show themselves to the priests.

As they went, something wonderful happened.

They were made well!

All ten had received a wonderful gift.

But one person stopped.

He turned around.

He ran back to Jesus.

He praised God.

Then he knelt at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

Jesus asked:

“Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?”

Only one had returned to say thank you.

Jesus told him:

“Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Kid Connection

Ask:

How many people did Jesus help?

TEN!

Hold up ten fingers.

How many came back to thank Jesus?

ONE!

Hold up one finger.

That one person remembered something important:

When someone gives us something good, we can say THANK YOU!

We receive good things from God every day.

So every day we can say:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

The Thankful Basket

Place a harvest basket in the middle of the circle.

Fill it with items or pictures such as:

- apple
- carrot
- potato
- wheat
- bread
- grapes
- pumpkin
- corn
- water
- flower

Let each child choose one item.

Ask:

“What is this?”

Then everyone responds:

“Thank you, God!”

Continue:

For apples...

Thank you, God!

For bread...

Thank you, God!

For water...

Thank you, God!

Then ask:

“What else are you thankful for?”

Children might name:

- Mom and Dad
- grandparents
- friends
- pets
- church
- teachers
- toys
- homes
- sunshine
- Jesus

Accept simple and unexpected answers.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, thank you for this beautiful world. Thank you for sunshine and rain. Thank you for farmers and everyone who helps provide our food. Thank you for fruits and vegetables, bread and water. Thank you for our families, our friends, and our church. Most of all, thank you for Jesus. Give us thankful hearts and generous hands. **Amen.**

Memory Verse

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

2 Corinthians 9:15

For younger children:

“Thanks be to God!”

2 Corinthians 9:15

Actions

Thanks — place hands over your heart.

be to God — raise hands upward.

for his — hold hands forward.

gift — pretend to hold a present.

Finish together:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Bible Story Time

Ten Were Helped — One Said Thank You

Have the children help count ten people.

Use ten paper figures, ten craft sticks, or ten fingers.

Count:

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10!

These ten people were sick.

When they saw Jesus, they called:

“Jesus! Help us!”

Have the children repeat it.

Jesus saw them.

Jesus cared about them.

Jesus told them what to do.

As they went on their way—

something wonderful happened!

They were well!

Imagine how happy they were.

Have everyone jump up and cheer:

“HOORAY!”

But nine people continued on their way.

Move nine figures away.

One person stopped.

Move one figure toward Jesus.

He thought:

“I need to thank Jesus!”

So he went back.

He praised God and thanked Jesus.

Ask:

“Did Jesus help only the person who said thank you?”

No.

Jesus had helped **all ten**.

But one person **noticed the gift, remembered the giver, and returned with gratitude.**

That's what Thanksgiving helps us do.

We stop.

We notice.

We remember.

And we say:

THANK YOU, GOD!

Craft / Activity

My Thankful Harvest Basket

Materials

- Basket template
- Paper fruits and vegetables
- Crayons
- Glue
- Child-safe scissors
- Optional wheat, leaf, pumpkin, apple and grape shapes

Give each child a paper basket.

Provide several large fruit and vegetable shapes.

On each one, children can draw something for which they are thankful.

For example:

 **My family**

 **My home**

 **My friends**

 **My church**

 **My food**

 **God's world**

Younger children can simply draw pictures.

Glue everything into the basket.

Across the basket write:

THANK YOU, GOD!

At the bottom:

“Thanks be to God!”

2 Corinthians 9:15

Craft Option

Thankful Hands Harvest Wreath

Trace each child's hand several times onto paper.

Cut out the handprints.

Children draw or name something they thank God for on each hand.

Arrange the hands in a circle.

Add paper:

- wheat,
- apples,
- pumpkins,
- leaves,
- grapes.

In the centre:

I HAVE SO MUCH TO THANK GOD FOR!

Game

Ten, Ten, One!

Choose ten children or use ten paper figures.

Have everyone walk around the room while music plays.

When the music stops, call:

“Jesus helped TEN!”

Everyone holds up ten fingers.

Then call:

“ONE CAME BACK!”

Everyone holds up one finger.

Then:

“WHAT DID HE SAY?”

Everyone answers:

“THANK YOU, JESUS!”

Repeat several times.

For a larger group, divide the children into groups of ten when possible.

Game Option

Thankful Harvest Hunt

Hide simple pictures around the room:

-  apple
-  corn
-  pumpkin
-  bread
-  wheat
-  grapes
-  carrot
-  water

When a child finds one, bring it to the harvest basket.

Before putting it inside, everyone says:

“Thank you, God, for _____!”

Continue until the basket is full.

Song Suggestions

- **For the Beauty of the Earth**
- **All Things Bright and Beautiful**
- **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**
- **We Plough the Fields and Scatter**
- **God Is So Good**
- **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**
- **Jesus Loves Me**
- **This Is My Father's World**
- **Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**
- **Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children**

Simple Preschool Song

To the tune of *Frère Jacques*:

**Thank you, Father,
Thank you, Father,
For your love,
For your love.
Thank you for our blessings,
Thank you for our blessings,
God is good!
God is good!**

Snack Suggestions

Harvest Feast

Create a small tasting plate with age-appropriate portions of:



apple



pear



grapes

 carrot
 cheese
 bread

Before eating, look at the food together.

Ask:

“Where did this food come from?”

Talk briefly about:

- soil,
- seeds,
- rain,
- sunshine,
- farmers,
- workers,
- stores,
- cooks.

Then pray:

**Thank you, God,
for the earth,
for those who grow our food,
for those who prepare it,
and for this food before us.
Amen.**

Check allergies and prepare all food safely for the children's ages. Cut grapes lengthwise as appropriate.

Wrap Up & Reflections

Gather around the harvest basket.

Ask:

How many people did Jesus help?

TEN.

How many returned to thank him?

ONE.

What did that person remember to do?

SAY THANK YOU!

Ask:

- What are you thankful for today?
- Who helps provide our food?
- What has God given us?
- What can we share with someone else?
- How can we show God that we are thankful?

Repeat together:

GOD IS GOOD!

GOD GIVES!

I CAN GIVE THANKS!

I CAN SHARE!

THANK YOU, GOD!

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the earth. Thank you for sunshine and rain. Thank you for seeds and harvests. Thank you for farmers and all who work to provide our food. Thank you for our homes. Thank you for our families and friends. Thank you for our church. Thank you for Jesus. Help us remember your gifts. Give us thankful hearts and generous hands so that we can share with others.

Thank you, God! Amen.

Take-Home Idea

Seven Days of Thank You

Send each child home with seven simple harvest shapes.

Each Day This Week

Draw or write **one thing you thank God for**.

Sunday — 🍎

Monday — 🌽

Tuesday — 🍇

Wednesday — 🌾

Thursday — 🍊

Friday — 🥕

Saturday — 🍞

At the bottom:

EVERY DAY I CAN SAY, “THANK YOU, GOD!”

Teacher Notes

Harvest Thanksgiving provides a natural opportunity to connect children's everyday food with God's creation and human community.

Deuteronomy offers an especially important message:

Do not forget God when life is going well.

The passage does not simply tell people to be thankful for food. It warns against believing that everything we possess exists only because of our own power.

For young children, express this positively:

“Many hands help bring God's good gifts to us.”

A loaf of bread connects us with:

- soil,
- water,
- sunshine,
- grain,
- farmers,
- harvest workers,
- truck drivers,
- millers,
- bakers,
- shop workers,
- cooks,
- and ultimately God's creation.

This also prevents Thanksgiving from becoming simply a celebration of having plenty.

Some children and families experience food insecurity. Avoid language suggesting that material abundance proves that God loves someone more.

God's generosity calls God's people toward **our own generosity**.

That makes 2 Corinthians particularly important:

Thankfulness leads to sharing.

A Note About Luke 17

Avoid presenting the nine people who did not return simply as “bad” people.

The central emphasis for young children can be:

One person stopped, noticed what God had done, and expressed gratitude.

Also avoid presenting illness as punishment or implying that sufficient faith always results in physical healing.

The story's focus for this lesson is **gratitude and responding to God's grace**.

Anglican Connection

Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving has a long place in Anglican worship.

Churches often decorate the worship space with signs of the harvest:

 wheat,
 fruit,
 vegetables,
 pumpkins,
 bread,
 flowers.

These decorations are not simply there to make the church look beautiful.

They help us remember:

The earth and everything in it belong to God.

Eucharist Means Thanksgiving

This lesson provides a particularly strong connection to the Eucharist.

Explain simply:

“Eucharist is another word for thanksgiving.”

Every time God's people gather around the Lord's Table, we give thanks.

The priest says:

“Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.”

And the people respond:

“It is right to give our thanks and praise.”

For children, explain:

“At church, we don't only say thank you at Thanksgiving. God's people gather every Sunday to give thanks.”

Bread at the Eucharist

Show children a piece of bread.

Ask: **“What do we use at Holy Communion?”**

Bread.

Bread also reminds us of the harvest. Someone planted grain. Rain fell. Sunshine helped it grow. Someone harvested it. Someone made flour. Someone baked the bread.

At the Eucharist, ordinary food becomes part of our great prayer of thanksgiving.

Sharing God's Gifts

Anglican worship doesn't end when we leave church.

We are sent out to:



love,



serve,



care,



share.

A Harvest Thanksgiving food-bank collection can make this lesson especially concrete.

Invite families, when appropriate, to bring a non-perishable food item to church.

Explain:

“We thank God for what we have by sharing with people who need something.”

Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving



Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Who Remembered to Say Thank You?

Circle the person who came back to thank Jesus.



How many people did Jesus help?



1



5



10

How many came back to say thank you?



1



5



10

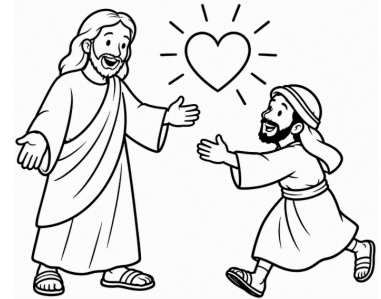
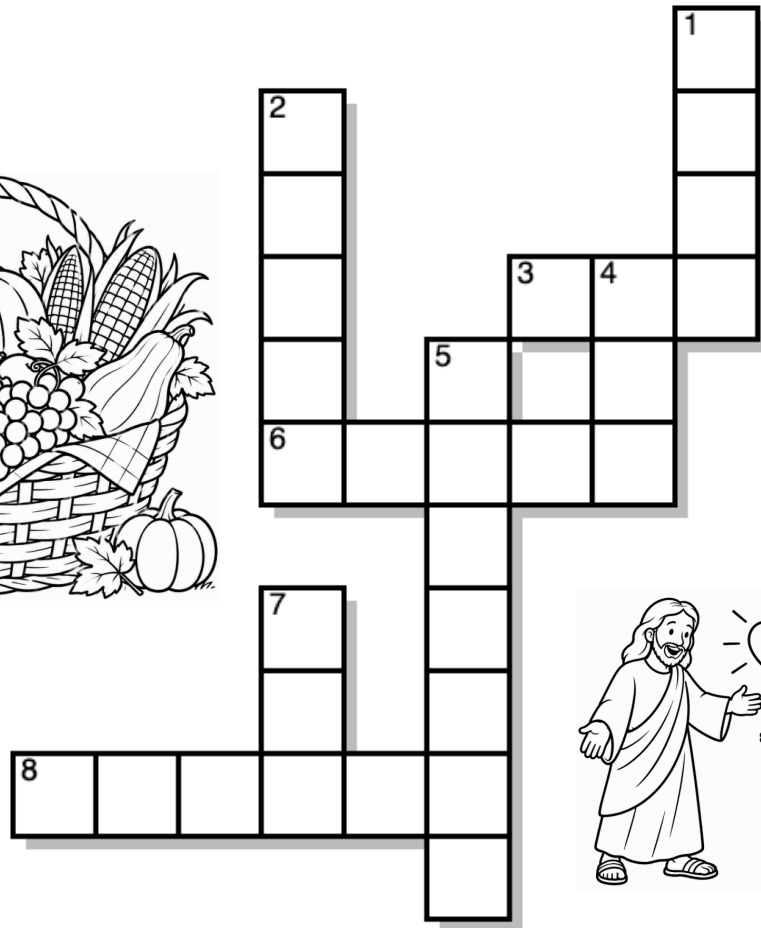


I CAN REMEMBER TO SAY THANK YOU!



Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving



ACROSS

- 3 Who gives us many good gifts?
- 6 We can _____ what we have with others.
- 8 We give _____ for God's gifts.

DOWN

- 1 God gives us _____ to eat.
- 2 Who helped the ten people?
- 4 How many returned to thank Jesus?
- 5 We gather crops at the _____.
- 7 How many people did Jesus help?

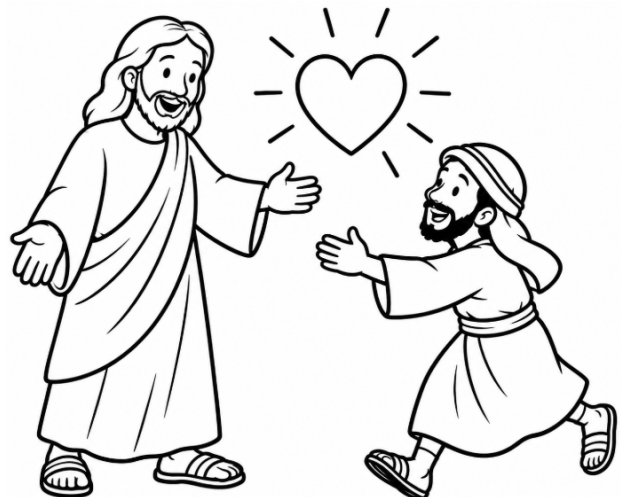
Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving

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H H G O D S R
A A T R U Y D
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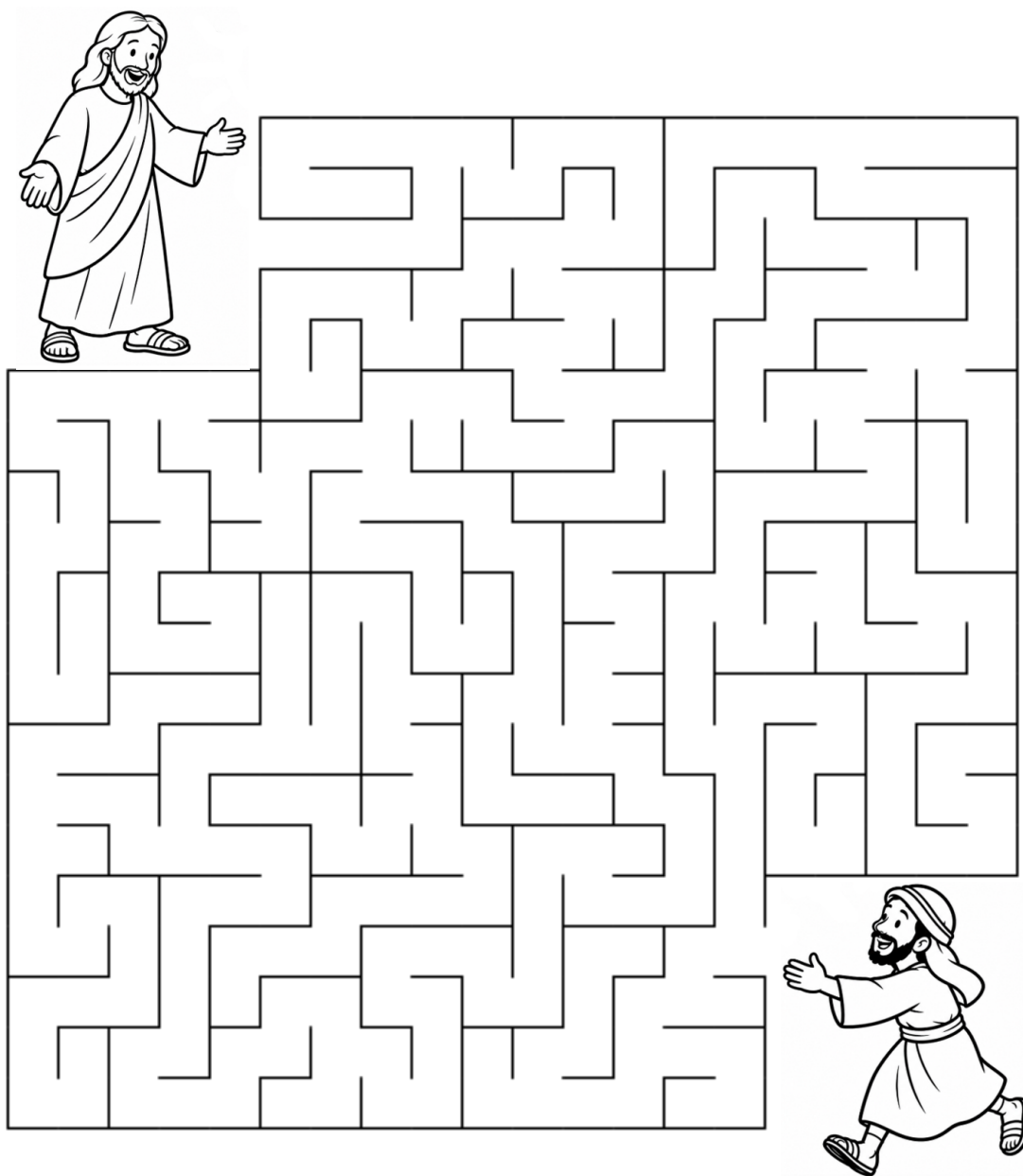
FOOD
BREAD
GRAIN
TEN
ONE



Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Help the man say thank you to Jesus.



Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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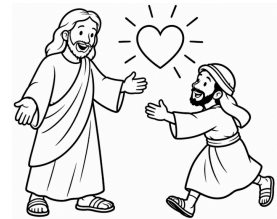
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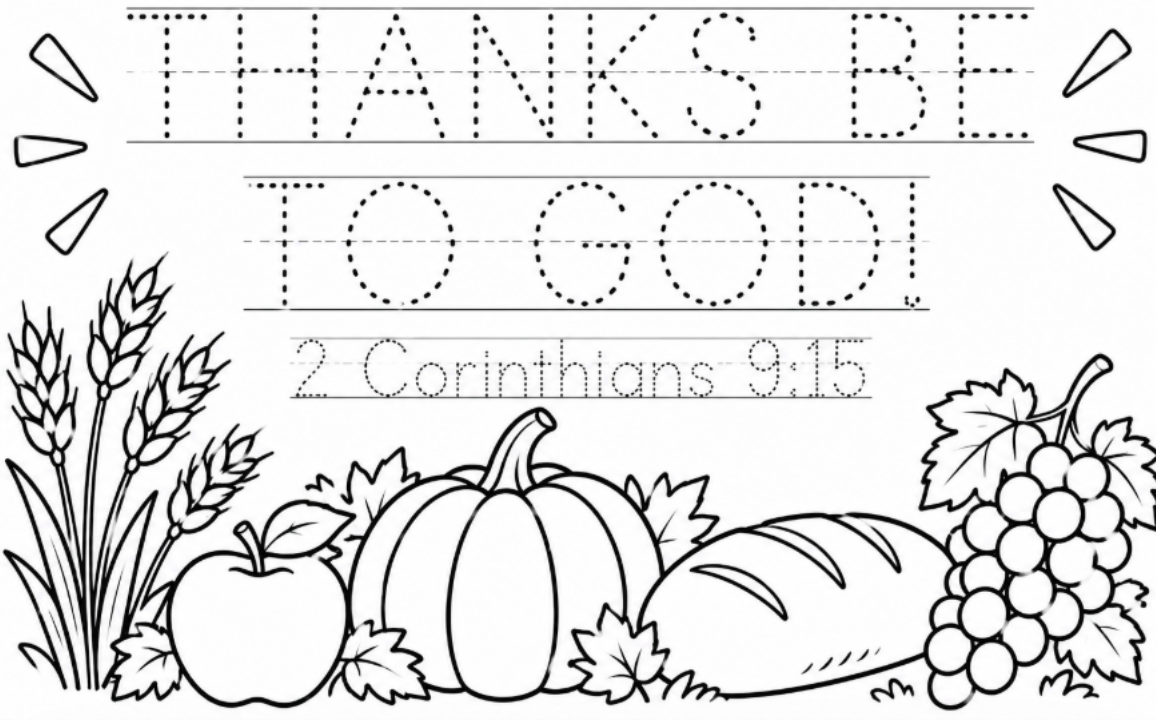
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Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Draw things inside the basket that you thank God for.



Thank you, God!

Harvest Thanksgiving

Fill in the blanks of the story with the words in the box.

Words to Use			
Ten	Jesus	help	well
one	back	thank	God



One Came Back

One day _____ was travelling near a village. _____ people called to him. They needed Jesus to _____ them. Jesus saw them and cared for them. As they went on their way, they became _____. They were very happy! But _____ person stopped. He turned _____. He praised _____. Then he went to Jesus to say: “_____ **YOU!**” Jesus was glad that he had returned.

Draw the Ending

On the back of this piece of paper draw the thankful person returning to Jesus. At the bottom write: I CAN SAY, “THANK YOU, GOD!”

Crossword - Key

Across

- 3. Truth
- 4. God
- 5. Share
- 7. Jesus
- 8. Moses

Down

- 1. Press
- 2. Love
- 6. Rules

Cryptogram – Key:

Deuteronomy 8:7a, 9a, 10

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Fill-in-the-Blank – Key

- JESUS
- TEN
- HELP
- WELL
- ONE
- BACK
- GOD
- THANK