



i SAY THANK YOU

VALUES-BASED ASSEMBLY



Aim

- To remember to be grateful and appreciate all that we have



Bible verse

'Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

(1 Thessalonians 5:18 *CEB*)



Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- 'I Say Thank You' video
- 'I Say Thank You' thankful cards
- 'I'm thankful for' reflection cards (optional) colour and black-and-white option
- 'I'm thankful for' stickers - three colours (optional)



You will need:

- Three gift boxes of varying sizes. Place a thankful card inside each box.
- Blu-tak
- A large jar labelled 'I'm thankful for ...' and some sticky notes-sized pieces of paper.
- If using the reflection cards, print enough for each pupil, then cut and assemble into bundles for each class.
- If using the stickers, insert the images into a sheet of circular sticker labels then print. Explain to the pupils that they need to add to the sticker a word or drawing, of something they are thankful for.

In advance organise with the class teachers to have similar 'I'm thankful for ...' jars for their class. Teachers may prefer to receive the reflection cards as well or instead of the gratitude jars.

If using the I'm thankful for cards, include either slide 8 or 9.



INTRODUCTION

Slide 1 - Welcome

Introduce yourself and welcome pupils to assembly. Display the three gift boxes at the front.



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MAIN TALK

Slide 2 - Best gift ever

I am sure you have been wondering about these gifts at the front. Let's see what they are - and no matter how awesome they are, I must remember to say thank you.

Smallest box

Open the smallest box, take out the card and show it, unfolded, to the pupils.

Friends. Friends? I didn't expect that. Does this mean I need to say thank you to my friends - for being my friends? Or I wonder if it means something else?

We enjoy being with our friends, friends have fun together and friends support each other. But it would be strange to keep saying thank you to them all the time. That's not how it works.

But we do sometimes talk about 'the gift of friendship.' And when you can't be with your friends, perhaps they are away or are busy with other things, we do miss them. Maybe thank *you* isn't the right word. Perhaps it's something else.

Middle-sized box

Let's see what's in the next box. Open the middle-sized box and reveal the card.

Lunch! Yum! Good food - it keeps us healthy and strong. It is tasty too. Hopefully we remember to say thank you when we are given our lunch, and perhaps when we are leaving the dining room. But in that moment when we're actually eating, when we're enjoying our food ...

We are fortunate to get lunch. Not everyone in the world has the time or even the food to enjoy a lunch. But thank *you* isn't the right word. Perhaps it's something else.

Largest box

So what's in the last box? Open the largest box and reveal the card.

Sunlight? It keeps us warm, feels great on our face, and the light means we can see what we are doing. But do we really think about the sunshine? Do





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we appreciate it when we are using it? Thank *you* isn't the right word. Perhaps it's something else.

If any pupils have worked out the missing word, allow them to share it: be thankful, though accept alternatives like gratitude.

Being thankful

Perhaps the word is thankful [or gratitude]. How often do we take a moment to appreciate our friends, to be thankful that they are in our lives?

When we are eating, how often are we grateful that we have good food? Are we thankful that we are getting the food we need to grow and be strong?

When we are doing anything at all in the daytime, do we take the time to notice and appreciate the sunlight? The beauty and warmth that it gives us? Are we thankful that we have sunlight to help us see and keep us alive?

Being thankful means appreciating the things in our lives that are good - no matter how small or ordinary they may seem! Our big gifts can make us really excited and happy, but these big gifts don't come around very often. However, being thankful and appreciating these seemingly small things in our lives can add up to quite a lot. Being thankful and appreciating what we have has the potential to make us happier every single day. It is a well-known fact that being thankful and appreciating what we have makes us much happier people.



Slide 3 - Christian perspective

Christians believe that God created everything, that all good things are a gift from God. They believe it is important to be thankful to God and to appreciate this wonderful world - every part of it. Very often, Christians will include a 'thank you' in their prayers.

'Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

(1 Thessalonians 5:18 *CEB*)

This 'attitude of gratitude' helps Christians put God first and centre in their lives and thoughts. Christians praise God to show how thankful they are to him and there are many ways to do this. Perhaps you already know some of the ways Christians show praise to God? *Take a few responses.*





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Slide 4 - Salvation Army perspective

The Salvation Army, as a Christian church and charity, praises God in lots of different ways. For example: by praying, playing music, through drama, creating art, sharing talks, and by singing. These can be done during worship services or at any time! Another way The Salvation Army shows their gratitude and love for God is by helping others - loving God by loving others.



REFLECTION

Slide 5 - Reflection

When we are aware of the everyday things in our lives that bring us joy, it helps us to be happier. Spend a few moments thinking: what are you thankful for?

‘What are you thankful for?’

Pause for a few moments for reflection.

My challenge for you now is: Can you find something to be thankful for every day?

Gratitude jar

One way that can help us to do this is to have a special jar. This jar is called a gratitude jar. On the front it says, ‘I’m thankful for ...’ *Hold up your ‘I’m thankful for ...’ jar.* Any ideas how this might help us? *Pause in case a pupil has figured it out.* When you have noticed something you are thankful for, write it on a small piece of paper and pop it in the jar! As the jar fills up, it helps to remind us of all the amazing things in our lives!

You can have a gratitude jar at home - perhaps with a smaller jar. You can also do this as a class. If your class teacher already has a gratitude jar ready for you, you can put a note in whenever you want to say thank you for something in your life that is great.



SONG

Slide 6 - Song

The Salvation Army has written a song to help remind us of the things in our lives that we can be thankful for. I wonder if some of the things you are grateful for are mentioned in the song?

Play the song ‘I Say Thank You’ and encourage the pupils to sing along.





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Slides 7 & 8 - Reflection card (optional)

Display the black-and-white or colour reflection card. Explain how to fill out the card, using examples the pupils shared earlier. Give a class bundle to each teacher, or to a pupil from each class if the teacher is not there.



Slide 9 - Goodbye

Thank the pupils and staff for letting you be a part of their assembly.

You may wish to give pupils a sticker (or the sheets of stickers to each teacher) as they leave.

Play the song 'I Say Thank You' as pupils leave.

