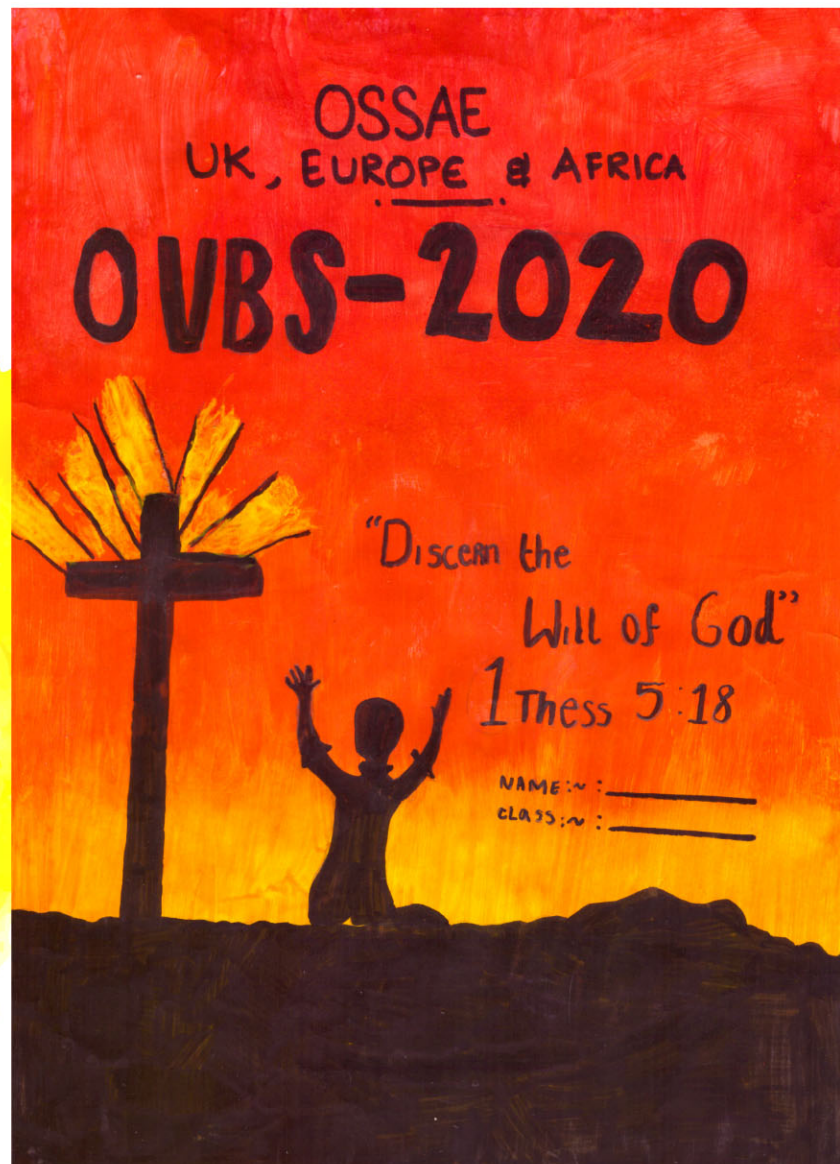


Orthodox Vacation Bible School 2020
Theme Book: Juniors

Leaves & Branches



OSSAE

Diocese of UK, Europe & Africa of Indian (Malankara) Orthodox Church

THE INDIAN (MALANKARA) ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of UK- Europe and Africa

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SOUK/20/007

01 March 2020

Blessings to the Vicars/Priests-in-Charge, Sunday School Teachers, Parents and Students:

Dearly beloved in Christ!

Sunday School is the cradle and foundation of our Church. With all gratitude to God Almighty We are overwhelmed to see the blessed functioning of the OSSAE activities in our diocese. We appreciate the Parents and Teachers for your vigour and commitment for providing the right spiritual nourishment for our young children.

OVBS indeed plays an inevitable role in the Sunday School activities. It brings up motivation and enthusiasm in young children to learn the Holy Book and Church's teachings. This year our OVBS classes will be conducted in all our Sunday School units during the months of May to July as per the convenience of individual units.

The theme for OVBS 2020 is "Discern the will of God." This is based on 1 Thessalonians 5:18 which says, "*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" Let us remember and teach our children that Praising and Glorifying God is the corner stone of Christian Faith. Whatever we receive, whether it is as per your wish or not so comfortable to you, is the will of God which we shall adhere and accept in full spirit. We could see that Thanksgiving to God is very prominent throughout the Bible.

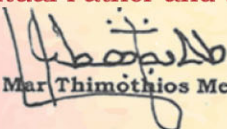
OSSAE diocesan Vice President Fr Anoop Abraham, Diocesan OSSAE officials and Sunday School Teachers are extensively contributing their wisdom and energy for the preparations for the sessions and it is well noticed that a song book will be published for this year's OVBS classes. The songs are well chosen and We are sure that it would be an added benefit and cheer for our children. Congratulation to the team behind this wonderful achievement.

We urge all the Parents and Sunday School teachers to encourage our children to attend the OVBS classes and be blessed.

We pray and extend best wishes for the success of OVBS 2020.

May God Bless you all!

Your Spiritual Father and Shepherd


+ Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan

Foreword



Beloved Sunday School teachers, parents and my dear children,

First of all, I thank Our Lord Almighty for His kindness and mercy upon us during this pandemic. As we prepare ourselves for another OVBS, amidst all the joy and happiness of OVBS this year, we are also going through a very tough and sad situation. Let's seek the loving kindness of our Lord to overcome this, with all positiveness and Christian hope.

Orthodox Vacation Bible School is the season of fun, most of our children look year after year, but it's also a season of transformation and learning lessons that kids carry with them for the rest of their lives. Also, it is an opportunity for the church to teach children The Holy Bible and the Orthodox faith. This year we have an interesting theme for our OVBS "Discern the Will of God" from 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". This verse gives an inspiring hope in perceiving, recognising and understanding the Will of God and giving thanks to God during a pandemic, which badly affects our life. If we belong to Christ, we have to renew our thankfulness by delighting to look into our heavenly Father's will he has revealed in the Scriptures. OVBS 2020 theme will help us to "Discern the Will of God" in our spiritual journey.

I take this opportunity to thank you all, especially our Diocesan Metropolitan H G Dr Mathews Mar Thimothios Thirumeni, all Vicars, OSSAE UK Director, Secretary, Treasurer, OVBS coordinators, District Inspectors, Head Teachers, Teachers, Volunteers and Parents, for your dedication, selfless work and support to OSSAE-UK and OVBS 2020. Special thanks to the team behind the song and theme books. Your every effort to support and nurture our children in Christ will be rewarded by Our Lord.

In our song book, as previous years, we have included official songs provided by OSSAE OVBS 2020 and a few English songs to make it more lively for our children. Each unit has the freedom to choose a number of songs from the song book based on their OVBS duration, however, prayer, marching and theme songs are mandatory to be taught in all units.

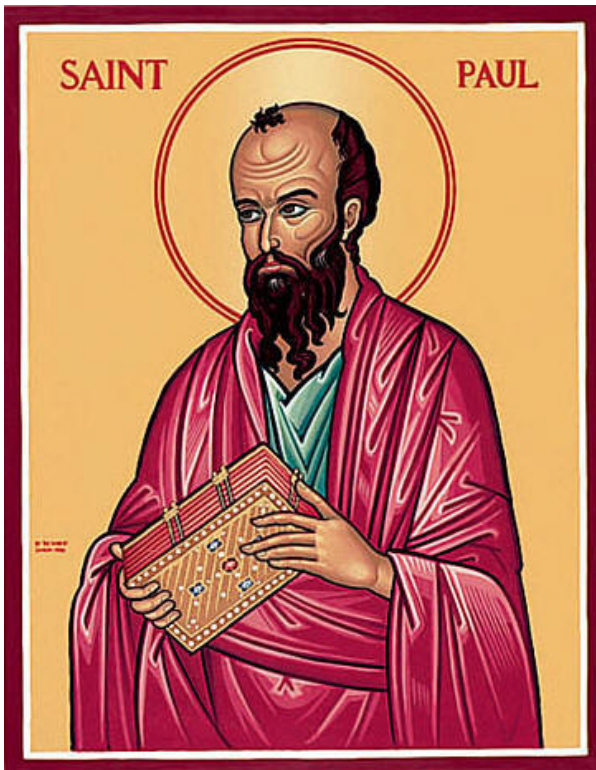
Even though we conclude our OVBS with a Holy Qurbana and rally every year, I would request vicars and head teachers to conduct OVBS 2020 based on the convenience available at individual churches i.e. using online medium or smaller groups depending on the situation.

Prayers and wishes for a blessed OVBS 2020.

Yours in Christ

Fr. Anoop Abraham Malayil
(Vice President OSSAE –UK)

LESSON 1 – WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S THEME ALL ABOUT?



Who is St. Paul?

- St Paul was a follower of Jesus. He along with many others believed Jesus was the Messiah so he travelled to different countries to spread the word of God.
- St Paul was a writer and his original name was Saul.
- At the beginning he was against the Christian movement. When he was in Damascus to look for Christians to persecute, Paul had a vision. Jesus spoke to him and said that his actions did not please God. He was blinded by the vision. However, a short time later Paul meets Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, and his sight came back to him (Acts 22:12)
- He spent years learning about the Christian teachings, this changed his viewpoint completely. He then changed his name to Paul and dedicated his life to serving Jesus Christ.
- St. Paul wrote letters to churches he helped begin and these letters contain many important parts of Christian teaching.
- According to tradition, St. Paul was beheaded in AD 67 by the order of Emperor Nero in Rome.
- On his second missionary journey Paul arrived in Greece to convert the people of Thessalonica to Christianity.
- Paul wrote 2 letters to the Thessalonians to instruct them to continue walking with Christ. You can read these in the Thessalonians chapter in the Bible.

Let's look at this in more detail.

1 Thessalonians- Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

Have any of you read 1 Thessalonian? What did Paul write to them about?

Before St. Paul wrote his letter, a man named Timothy, who was also on the missionary journey with Paul, told him positive news about the church in Thessalonica. Paul was impressed by the commitment of the Thessalonians to Christ, so he decided to write them a letter of **thanksgiving**. He also mentions some other minor issues which took place in the community. The believers in Thessalonica were young in their faith, Paul encouraged them to persevere in the gospel and continue to live a life pleasing God. There were many misunderstandings in the church about Jesus' return. They thought Jesus would return immediately. The Thessalonians also believed that the believers who had already died had missed Jesus' second coming. Paul assured them that **when the Lord returns, the dead who are in Christ will rise first to join Him. And those believers who are still alive will then join with Christ in the air.**

This means that we all must continue to pray daily, read the bible everyday so we can learn more about God. Giving thanks is an important deed that we must all include within our daily prayers. We must always give thanks to God for all the blessings he has given us. Along with this we must also be thankful for everything our parents, friends, teachers and neighbours do for us.

1 Thessalonians can be divided into two parts:

- 1) Thessalonians 1:2 to 3:13
- 2) Thessalonians 4:1 to 5:25



Part 1

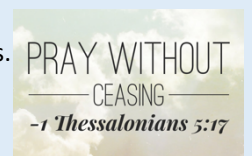
The first part is all about thanksgiving. It focuses on Paul reinforcing the true Christian faith. He also refers to a few problems within the community. He reminded them that he did not burden them with his stay as he provided for all his expenses. Moreover, he also reminds them that he had taken care of their spiritual needs as a mother cares for her children. Paul's gratitude towards the community was due to their dedication to finding spiritual growth. St Paul also defends the true Christian faith against those people in Thessalonica who started preaching about a new faith. He did this by stressing the importance of the Gospel. He reminds the faithful believers that the gospel is a gift of God's grace that they have freely received.



Part 2

The second part of the letter contains a set of exhortations. He continues to remind the community that they are expected to practice the Gospel values in their daily lives. Paul teaches them about the norms and moral standards of the Christian life that everyone is obliged to follow. However, this in-depth understanding of the Gospel can only be achieved if each of them develops a personal relationship with God, through Christ. This connection is strengthened when you surrender yourself to God's Will, allowing you to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

Our theme for this year's OVBS is taken from this second part of 1 Thessalonians. In Chapter 5, Paul lists many qualities a good Christian should possess, one of which is being **thankful to God**.



Activity 1 – Your Turn

Can you think of any more rules we should follow to be good Christians? Write down all your thoughts all around this sheet in a mind map format.

HERE IS A SET OF RULES TO FOLLOW TO FOLLOW AS GOOD CHRISTIAN CHILDREN

ALWAYS BE HONEST

* PROVERBS 12:22 *

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

* PSALMS 34:1-3 *

FORGIVE AND FORGET

* MICAH 7:18 *

CHOOSE YOUR WORDS WISELY

* EPHESIANS 4:29 *

BE KIND & TENDERHEARTED

* EPHESIANS 4:32 *

BE OBEDIENT

* EPHESIANS 6:1-3 *

PUT OTHERS FIRST

* ROMANS 15:1-2 *

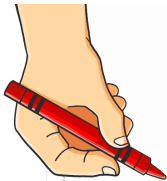
and above all...

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

1 PETER 1:22

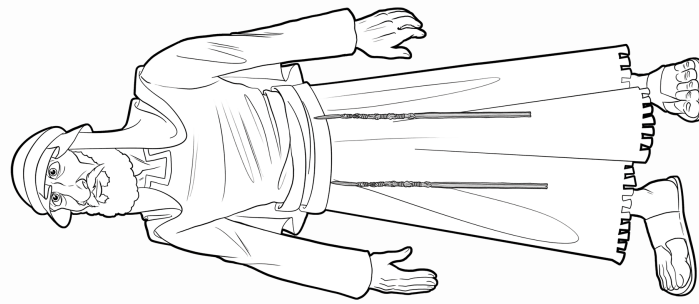
Activity 2

Bible Pathway
Adventures
PAUL WORKSHEET



FACTS ABOUT PAUL

Read Acts 9:1-43.
Inside each box, write a fact about Paul the Apostle.
Color the picture.



<https://biblepathwayadventures.com/activities/paul-coloring-worksheet/>

Activity 3

BibleWise

Word Search

HOLY LAND TOUR - PAUL'S INVITATION TO GREECE: Thessalonica
PART 1

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

- MESSAGE
- SABBATH
- GENTILES
- FRIENDSHIP
- TENTS
- JEWS
- SYNAGOGUE
- SAFETY
- JASON
- GANG
- IDOLS
- ATHENS
- JEALOUSY
- ROSTRUM
- BEREA
- PERSECUTION



<https://www.biblewise.com/kids/images/fun/word-search-thessalonica.pdf>

Activity 4



BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WORD SCRAMBLE

- 1. NIHTIOARCNS: _____
- 2. IAAGNLTAS: _____
- 3. HIPPNLIPIAS: _____
- 4. BREEHWS: _____
- 5. STIUT: _____
- 6. THAMETW: _____
- 7. IHTTMOY: _____
- 8. KULE: _____
- 9. MESJA: _____
- 10. MRONAS: _____
- 11. EVIRTLOEAN: _____
- 12. OLACISNOSS: _____
- 13. DEJU: _____
- 14. SELNHASANTOS: _____
- 15. PHAEISNES: _____
- 16. KMRA: _____

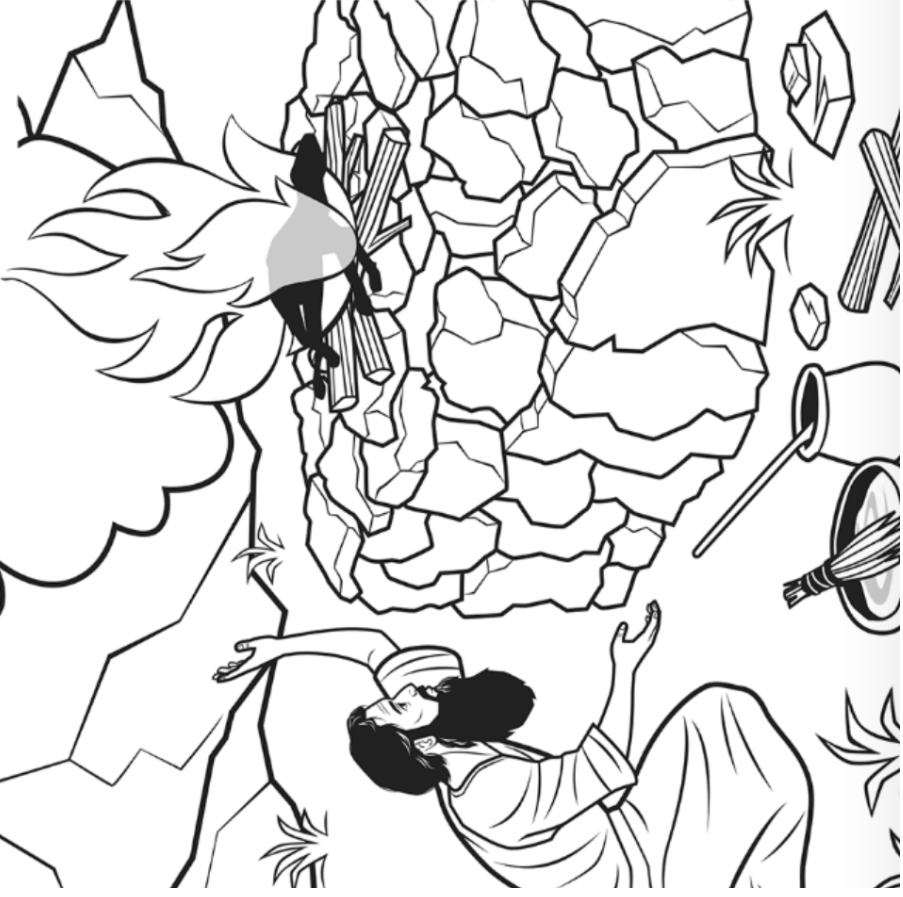


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Activity 5



In everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18



LESSON 2 – WHAT DOES THE VERSE ACTUALLY MEAN TO US?

RECAP

What did we learn in the previous lesson?

We learned from the previous lesson that within the Thessalonians St Paul reminded us that all those who die in Christ, so with the belief of Christ, they will receive all the blessings in Christ's second coming.

How did he do this?

By advising the believers to:

- 1) Keep Christ in everything they do
- 2) Follow the commandments
- 3) Pray daily
- 4) Thank Christ for all your blessings
- 5) Ask to forgive your sins



1. Give thanks in all Situations

This means give thanks to God the Father, in the name of Christ. We should give thanks for all the worldly blessings we have received in our life such as our homes, our families and friends. We should also be thankful for our health, our education and all the little things that we can see and do in our daily lives. Furthermore, we are advised to give thanks to God no matter what tough times we are going through just like Job in the Old Testament. Even though Job was going through a bad phase he still believed in all the good things God did for him and whole heartedly gave thanks to God. Throughout our life we will find ourselves in tough situations where we may doubt our faith and be caught up in our worldly possessions, however during these times it is important to remember who gave us our blessings and fortune. It is important to take time out of our lives and dedicate it to God to say a big thank you for everything he has done for you. There are no rules as to what you can give thanks for, you can say thank you to God for keeping you safe throughout the day, you can say thank you for helping me understand the lessons in school today. Whatever you are grateful for, say a quick Thankyou to God.

Why should we be Thankful?

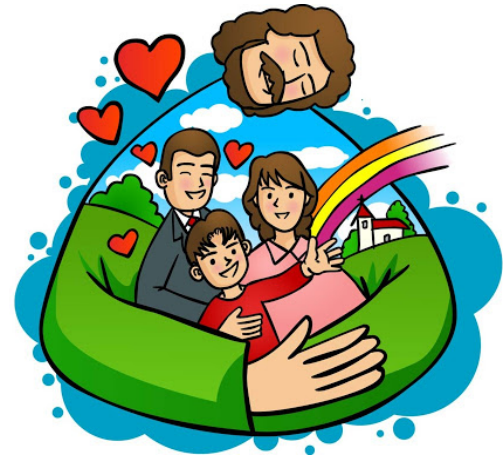
In Philippians 4:13, Paul reminds us that God gives us the strength to overcome everything in life. So, we must be thankful because God stands by us and provides us with an unconditional amount of love and support even when we are sad or struggling. So, we must not take that for granted and give Thanks for all he has done for us.

Similar to Thessalonians, in Ephesians as well, Paul is reminding us to give thanks for all things; Ephesians 5:20 "giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".

2. This is the Will of God

So, what is the Will of God?

In this context, what we mean is that we should always be thankful to God, however we shouldn't just give thanks because you feel obliged to do so. Giving thanks to God should come naturally to you. God does not want to make us feel sorrow or sadness, he wants our hearts to be filled with happiness, love and thankfulness. He wants to continue blessing us and standing by our side in all our current and future endeavours. Additionally, whatever comes into our life comes in by the WILL OF GOD. If it wasn't, he would prevent it from our lives. God mixes together the bitter and sweet, the good and the bad in perfect proportions so that it works together for the good. He knows what's best for us and exactly how to guide us. So, along the way we should understand this, learn from our own mistakes and always give thanks to God.



3. In Christ Jesus for You

In John 3:16, we are reminded that "For God **so** loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life". The 'so' tells us the degree of his Love, it tells us of the boundless and unconditional nature of God's love. He loved the world so greatly and so dearly that he gave us the most wonderful gift of all time. Similarly, in 1 John 4:9 it says, "In this, the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him". We can learn three things from this verse; Firstly, the direction of God's love is towards us and we are the receivers of his Love. Secondly, sending his only Son into this world shows us the degree of God's love. Finally, it teaches us that 'we might live through him' if we believe in him with all our hearts.

To Conclude...

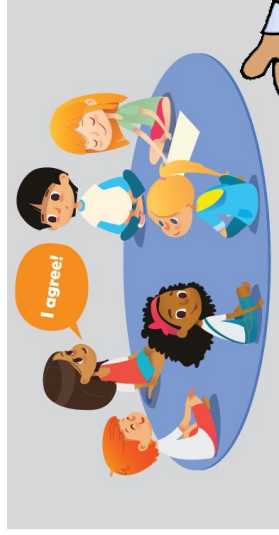
We can show our love for God in return, by praying to him daily, by praising him and giving Thanks for everything he has done for us and will continue doing for us and also by showing kindness to everyone around us, only then we can really appreciate the good we have been blessed with.



Activity 1 – Open discussion time!

Discuss the questions below in pairs or as a whole group.

1. Do you think it's important to pray every day and give thanks to God? why?
2. Should we only pray to God to give thanks? What else can we pray about?
3. Based on what we learnt why is it important to give thanks to God?
4. Can any of you name another chapter and verse from the Bible that talks about being thankful?
5. How much did God love us? How does he show his love for us?
6. Even though Job was going through a bad phase what did he continue to do? Why did he do this?
7. From what we learnt, in your opinion what do we mean by the "Will of God"?
8. What kind acts can we do as good Christian children?



philipmoirrh.com

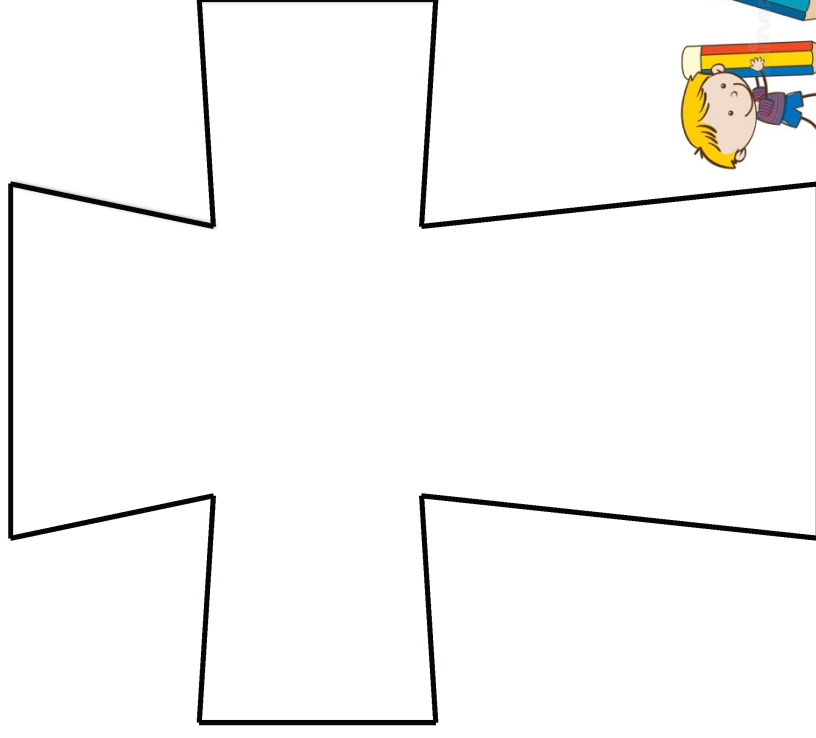
<https://websitesreview.net/explore/discussion-clipart-discussion-student/>
https://www.clipart_email/child-of-god-clipart-71307.html

Activity 2 – What are you Thankful for?

Within the cross write down a few things you are thankful for and why?

I am thankful for

Jesus



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
His faithful love lasts forever. Psalms 118:1

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/37717715609564464/?lp=true>

Activity 3 – Crossword

Use the Word Bank and the clues to complete this crossword.



Grades 4–5 • Thanksgiving 1

Giving Thanks to God

James 1:17, Psalm 33:2–5, 100:1–5, 9:1–2, 95:1–5

God has many wonderful attributes we are thankful for!

Read the clues then write the correct answer from the Word Bank in the crossword puzzle.

Word Bank

Good
Holy
King
Love
Just
Savior
Creator
Faithful
Immutable
Shepherd
Powerful
Righteous

DOWN

- Quality God loves along with justice
- Always keeps his promises
- Great _____ above all other gods
- Spoke everything into existence
- Made everything, including us

ACROSS

- Came to save us from sin
- Never changes
- Cannot sin and hates sin
- Fair according to who he is
- Cares for us like lost sheep
- Gives every _____ and perfect gift
- Steadfast and lasting forever

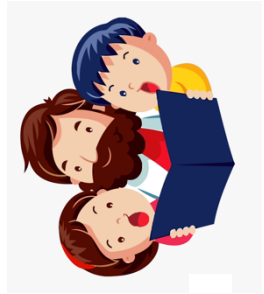
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Activity 4 – Word search

Find all the words as quickly as you can.

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

FOOD	FRIENDS	FAMILY	FLOWERS	HAPPINESS
SUNSHINE	PRAYER	HOUSE	SCHOOLS	BIBLE
COUNTRY	CLOTHES	RAIN	HEALTH	LOVE
CHURCH	PEACE	FREEDOM	TEACHERS	PETS
MUSIC	PARENTS	SALVATION	TREES	JESUS



<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/651473902332033136/>

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- Cares for us like lost sheep
- Gives every _____ and perfect gift
- Steadfast and lasting forever

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<https://answersingenesis.org/kids/activities/word-games/>

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

2 Chronicles 20:21

Give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast love endures forever.



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<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/532691462160611983/?lp=true>

Give
thanks to the
LORD,
for HE is good.
His Love
endures
FOREVER.

Psalms 136:1

<https://www.lifeissweeterbysdesign.com/thanksgiving-color-pages/>

LESSON 3- HOW DO WE DISCERN THE WILL OF GOD?

Introduction - Recap

What did we learn in the previous lesson?

We learnt that it is important to give thanks to God for all our blessings. We should give thanks no matter what we are going through in life, both good and difficult times.

Why do we give thanks to God?

Because God has blessed with unconditional love and we must not take this for granted, so we must be thankful.



HOW NOT TO DISCERN GOD'S WILL?

The Story- The Drowning Man

A terrible storm came into a town and local officials sent out an emergency warning that the riverbanks would soon overflow and flood the nearby homes. They ordered everyone in the town to evacuate immediately. A faithful Christian man heard the warning and decided to stay, saying to himself, "I will trust God and if I am in danger, then God will send a divine miracle to save me." The neighbours came by his house and said to him, "We're leaving and there is room for you in our car, please come with us!" But the man declined. "I have faith that God will save me." As the man stood on his porch watching the water rise up the steps, a man in a canoe paddled by and called to him, "Hurry and come into my canoe, the waters are rising quickly!" But the man again said, "No thanks, God will save me." The floodwaters rose higher pouring water into his living room and the man had to retreat to the second floor. A police motorboat came by and saw him at the window. "We will come up and rescue you!" they shouted. But the man refused, waving them off saying, "Use your time to save someone else! I have faith that God will save me!" The floodwaters rose higher and higher and the man had to climb up to his rooftop. A helicopter spotted him and dropped a rope ladder. A rescue officer came down the ladder and pleaded with the man, "Grab my hand and I will pull you up!" But the man STILL refused, folding his arms tightly to his body. "No thank you! God will save me!" Shortly after, the house broke up and the floodwaters swept the man away and he drowned. When in Heaven, the man stood before God and asked, "I put all of my faith in You. Why didn't You come and save me?" **And God said, "Son, I sent you a warning. I sent you a car. I sent you a canoe. I sent you a motorboat. I sent you a helicopter. What more were you looking for?"**

What does it mean?

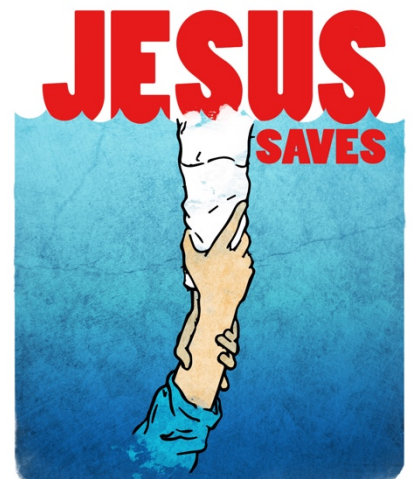
From this story we learn that sometimes we may miss being blessed or receiving a blessing because we are too focussed on it appearing the way we expect/ want it to appear. Sometimes, we won't even realise that our prayers have been answered because it happened in a different way. Most of the time, this story represents our attempts to discern God's Will. We all want to find our place with God and find the answers we've been looking for with our faith, however we sometimes miss what's right under our noses simply because we weren't expecting it. If we can't understand God's Will, then we can't begin our journey on his path. Finding the Will of God can be tricky, it's not as easy as closing your eyes, and flipping randomly to a page in the Bible for answers or relying on different methods like we do in science. In order to even begin to find the Will of God, you have to make God your first priority, your faith should be the single most important thing in your life. In this day and age, we are surrounded by so many distractions such as the latest technology, social medias and so many entertainments all around us, it is so easy to get caught up in this and forget about finding God's Will for you. We sometimes will find ourselves praying for the sake of it, or to tick it off our daily list or simply just to satisfy our parents. Because of this half-hearted approach to prayer, you are not connecting with God and not allowing yourself to be spiritually immersed with God, therefore distancing yourself further from finding your path to him.

How many of you feel lost sometimes or pray just for the sake of it?

Today, we will breakdown the different ways you can begin to find your path to God and hopefully begin your journey towards him.

There are 2 main approaches;

1. Walking with God
- 2 Surrendering your Will to God's Will.



WALKING WITH GOD

Firstly, in order to find your place with God, you must walk with God. You need to establish a relationship with him. It's okay to build your own connection with God, you don't have to rely or look to others to find YOUR place with God. In John 20:28 when Thomas first saw the Lord after he had risen, he said "My Lord and My God". He did not refer to Christ as 'Our Lord' but as his own Lord. It shows his personal relationship with God. This is why it's important for us as Christian children to build, strengthen and grow our bond with God. You don't have to copy your friend or your parents, you can choose how you want to strengthen your connection with God. When you come to Sunday school, don't just listen and make notes for the sake of it, but actually try and connect with your Sunday school teacher, ask them questions, go home and relearn. You can ask your parents if you have doubts about your faith or even speak to your church priest. It is extremely important to UNDERSTAND what you read before you try and INCLUDE it in your daily life.

So how can we build this relationship with God?

We connect with him by knowing him and in order to know him we must study the Bible. The Bible is the core to our faith, the Bible is God's Word. It tells us who God is, what he thinks, and what his Will is for us. Those of us that have a Bible are very privileged, we can read the Word of God whenever we want, which is incredible! Every time we read the Bible, we get to know him better and better, therefore allowing us to become closer to him. Along with reading the Bible, we must also pray to God, we can ask him for forgiveness from the wrong things we did, we can say thank you to him for our blessings, we can even ask him to guide and protect us in all we do. What you pray to God is personal and up to you. It's YOUR relationship with him.

SURRENDERING YOUR WILL TO GOD'S WILL

Sometimes we try to discern the Will of God and then pray for God's approval on it so we can get what we desire. That's not how prayer and finding God works. What we need to first understand is that, God will not just reveal his Will to us the second we ask. Jesus reminds us that it is not for us to know the times of God's plans for us. God will reveal HIS Will to US when the time is right. We must be patient and keep striving to know what it is.

How?

If you've accepted Christ into your heart, you've already started your surrendering to him. When you stop trying to earn God's Grace but instead rely on what he has planned for you, that means you've surrendered yourself to be a part of God's family. As you begin to surrender yourself to God, you allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with God's Glory instead. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit that's when we truly start acting and talking like Jesus, in God's image. Surrendering is not losing control of every aspect of your life, we still need to make choices, but the important thing is to align what YOU want with what GOD wants and praying to him to guide you in his path. As it says in Proverbs 16:9, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." – That is exactly what it means to surrender your Will to God's Will. You have to trust that he is in control of the outcome. Just remember that God's plan for us will ALWAYS benefit us.

Conclusion

In order to discern the Will of God we must first surrender ourselves to him by trusting in him and walking with God by building a relationship with him. Reading the Bible is the best way to know God better and become closer to him. When we come to church and when we pray at home, let us truly concentrate on what we say and understand what we want and ask for.

Our goal as Christians can be summed up by Galatians 2:20;

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

God loves and honours a life that is surrendered to him and he will reward that life with great fulfillments.



Activity 1 – Discussion Time

Discuss the following questions in pairs or as a group about what we learnt.

- 1) What did we learn from the story of the Drowning Man?
- 2) Why do you think the man refused all help? What do you think he was waiting for?
- 3) Why is it important to read the bible every day?
- 4) What does the Bible contain?
- 5) What does it mean to surrender yourself to God?
- 6) Do any of you feel like you're on the path to find God's Will? If not, how can you start?



THE PASSAGE

1TH 5:12 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. [13] Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. [14] And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. [15] Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

1TH 5:16 Be joyful always; [17] pray continually; [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1TH 5:19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; [20] do not treat prophecies with contempt. [21] Test everything. Hold on to the good. [22] Avoid every kind of evil.

1TH 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24] The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

1TH 5:25 Brothers, pray for us. [26] Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. [27] I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

1TH 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Activity 2 – Comprehension

Read the passage in the previous box from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 and answer the questions below in the space provided. You may discuss as a group. Use additional sheets if needed.

1. How does God want us to regard church elders? (5:12-13)
2. How does God want us to treat each other? (5:13-15)
3. What attitudes represent God's will for us? (5:16-18)
4. How should we pray? (5:17)
5. When should we give thanks? (5:18)
6. What is God's will for us? (5:16-18)
7. How should we show respect for the Holy Spirit's presence in us? (5:19-22)
8. What does God want to happen inside us? (5:23)
9. For what reason can we depend on God? (5:24)
10. What kind of affection did Paul have for the Thessalonian Christians? (5:26)
11. Who was to hear the contents of this letter? (5:27)

https://delessons.org/tools/thessalonians_small_group_discussions/1-Thessalonians-5-Small-Group-Discussions.pdf



Activity 3 – Word Search

Complete the word search as quickly as you can

God loves me!

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

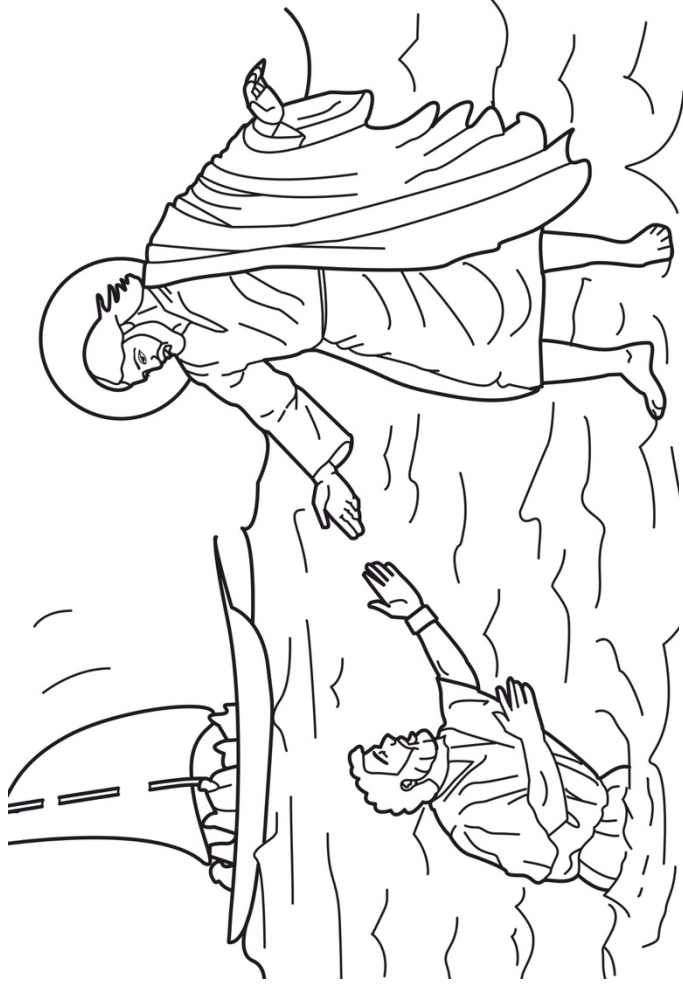


PRAISE THE LORD!!

treasure	heart	happy	thanks
good	forever	grace	mercy
protector	shelter	support	comfort
helps	kind	patient	caring
compassionate	amazing	praise	wonderful
create	Jesus	saves	love
God			

https://wordmint.com/public_puzzles/50698

Activity 4 – Colour this picture



<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/287245282458727894/?lp=true>

Activity 5 – Write a short prayer

Write a short prayer to Thank God for everything he has done for you along with everything else you want to say to him. Remember, you are building your own relationship with God. You may want to keep this prayer safe to read aloud every day and to add new things on.

Use the space below to plan and write your prayer on a separate sheet, make it as creative as you can.



Authors:-

- **Miss Emy Anil
(St. George IOC Leicester)**

Acknowledgement



All OVBS participants, head teachers, teachers, coordinators, music teachers, parents and volunteers, Let us praise and thank our Almighty God for guiding us in all our centralized Sunday school activities within UK and Ireland. This is our eighth successive centralized OVBS programme. Considering the unique needs of our children growing up in the UK and Ireland, similar to previous years, the OVBS scheme has been developed and modified by incorporating some changes to make it an enjoyable experience for the children but keeping the essential and core components from OSSAE.

First of all, I would like to express my humble gratitude to H.G. Dr Mathews Mar Thimothios, our Diocesan Metropolitan and president for OSSAE-UK & Ireland for the blessings and invaluable guidance to all our Sunday school activities in this region.

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Similar to previous years, the OVBS Theme books have been prepared exclusively for OSSAE-UK & Ireland by Sunday school teachers from different units. I hereby sincerely thank all teachers who wrote and reviewed the lessons namely

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Sunday school activities in UK and Ireland are strengthened and led by all our vicars, district Inspectors, Sunday School head teachers, teachers, talent competition coordinator, volunteers and parents working at different capacities within limited resources and in various circumstances. I thank each and everyone for their commitment, dedication and efforts for making our children grow in Orthodox faith enabling them to serve God in the true Christian way.

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We have chosen a few out of the 21 cover page designs received from our children. Sincerely thanking all the students, parents and teachers for showing interest.

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May God Almighty continue to shower His Blessings in all our activities in future and help us to work together for His Glory and spiritual growth of our students!

Yours in Christ

Simon Chacko | Sunday School Director-UK& Ireland| sundayschool.iocuk@gmail.com)

