



The Concept

from Christian Concepts for Kids

Helping you share Christian concepts with kids

November 2026

Theme: Thankfulness

[Printable version \(PDF\)](#)



Message from Karen

Welcome to the first issue of *The Concept*! Our theme this month is thankfulness. Our featured lesson, “John’s Message,” ends by asking children to thank God for all of their blessings and to show Jesus how thankful they are by helping the people around them.

If you teach Sunday school or children’s church, the Thank You Jar is an easy craft to send home before Thanksgiving. Thank you for sharing Christian concepts with the children in your life.

— Karen

IN THIS ISSUE

- ♦ Featured Lesson: “John’s Message” and the Thank You Jar
- ♦ Free for Your Church: A Four-Lesson Thanksgiving Series
- ♦ For Churches & Ministry Leaders: A Teacher Tip
- ♦ More Thanksgiving Ideas
- ♦ Family Fun Activity: Our Blessing Book
- ♦ Devotional Doodles: Praise
- ♦ Devotional: “Thankful” by Paulette Gobel
- ♦ Great Quotes
- ♦ Pass It On

Theme: Thankfulness

In This Lesson . . .

John's Message

Lesson: "John's Message" looks at repentance and baptism.

Craft: Thank You Jar

Indoor Activity: Thanks

Outdoor Activity: Thanks Tag

Chapter 2: John the Baptist, pages 19–20



A finished Thank You Jar

From the scripted lesson

An excerpt from "John's Message" (page 19). Lines are quoted from the book; ... marks lines left out here.

Prior to Discussion: Have a Bible available and ask for volunteers to read.

Say:

- Long before John the Baptist or his parents were born, a prophet was given a message about him.

Read: Matthew 3:3

...

Say:

- Repentance begins when we realize we have done something wrong and are truly sorry about it.
- Repenting is when we confess our sin to God and then turn away from the sin.
- Forgiveness means to wipe away something, to release it.

...

Ask: *Allow time for discussion.*

- What are some ways we can show thankfulness to Jesus and help people get ready for His return?

Final Thought: John helped people get ready to meet Jesus. Jesus asked us to help people get ready to meet Him when He returns. Let's remember to thank God for all of our blessings and show Jesus just how thankful we are by helping the people around us get ready for His return.

The activities

Thank You Jar (craft): Each child writes “Thank You” on a jar and decorates it with things for which they are thankful. At home, family members write down things for which they thank God and place them in the jar. On a special day such as Thanksgiving Day, they take turns reading them.

Thanks (indoor activity): Sitting in a circle, the first child says “I am thankful for . . .” and fills in the blank. Each child after that repeats everything already said and adds one new thing.

Thanks Tag (outdoor activity): Whoever is “it” shouts out something for which they are thankful. Each tagged child becomes another “it,” shouts out something for which they are thankful, and helps tag the others.

Get the full lesson, craft, and activities on this issue’s page:

[See the full lesson →](#)

Free for Your Church: A Four-Lesson Thanksgiving Series

Four lessons for November, each with a craft plus indoor and outdoor activities: “Thank You for Our Leaders,” “Thank You for Your Word,” “Thank You for Me,” and “Thank You for Our Blessings.”

Just reply “yes” to this email and I’ll send the series to you.

For Churches & Ministry Leaders

Teacher tip: send the jar home with a job

- The lesson asks you to **have a Bible available and ask for volunteers to read.** Mark Matthew 3:3, Luke 1:17, Matthew 3:5–6, Luke 3:1–3, and Matthew 3:13 ahead of time.
- For a classroom, the craft’s variation helps: **plastic jars or empty soup cans without sharp edges** can replace canning jars.
- Send each jar home with **several small pieces of paper** so families can add their thank-yous and read them on Thanksgiving Day.
- No supplies are needed for the **Thanks** circle game or **Thanks Tag**, so they fill extra minutes easily.

Need several copies of Karen’s book *Life and Times of Jesus* for your classrooms? Call or text [\(803\) 944-5900](tel:8039445900) or see [ordering for churches](#).

More Thanksgiving Ideas

- **“Thank You” Tree** (outdoor activity from Karen’s book *Christian Living*, page 10): each child paints a fist-sized rock to thank the person or people who told them about Jesus, then places it around a “thank you” tree.
- **Appreciation for Heroes** (craft, *Christian Living*, page 22): children make cards, pictures, and letters to thank a group of heroes, such as a fire department, police department, nearby military base, or missionaries.
- **Helping Our Heroes** (indoor activity, *Christian Living*, page 22): children decorate a donation box and invite their church or group to fill it for military heroes or their families.

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITY

Our Blessing Book

A Blessing Book is a reminder of God’s goodness and blessings, filled in by the whole family after special times together.

Items needed: Colored pencils or markers, miscellaneous decorations, glue, scissors, 1 sheet of construction paper, and book pages (10 sheets of white copy paper sewn down the middle). A marble notebook works too.

- Fold the pages on the sewn line, wrap the construction paper around them, and glue it to the first and last pages to make a cover.
- Give the book a title, such as “Our Family Blessings,” and decorate the cover.
- Each family member picks a color (darker colors work best) and writes his or her name in it on the first page.
- After each family-fun time (a trip, a family night, a nature hike, a movie night), write the date and a short description. Then everyone writes or draws a blessing from that time in his or her color.

[Download “Our Blessing Book”](#)

DEVOTIONAL DOODLES

Praise

A one-page activity sheet for kids: use the letters to draw a picture of yourself praising God, see how many words you can find in **PRAISING HIM**, and find words like *singing, dancing, hands*, and *breath* in the word search.

[Get the Praise doodle sheet](#)

DEVOTIONAL • JUST A THOUGHT

Thankful

by Paulette Gobel

"I think it is a God-given gift. It is an ability to know and appreciate blessings and to know from whom they came."

Paulette looks at Adam and Eve in the garden (Genesis 2:8–9, 16–17) and asks why we want what we should not have instead of being thankful for all we do have.

[Read the full devotional](#)

GREAT QUOTES

"It is well, sometimes, to sit down and take a grateful review of all that God has done for us, and with us, from our first day until now."

"Only begin to praise God and you will find that he who praises God for mercy will never be long without a mercy for which to praise Him."

— Charles H. Spurgeon, from the sermon "Three Blessings of the Heavenly Charter" (No. 2314, preached June 16, 1889)

Pass It On

Know a teacher or grandparent who would enjoy *The Concept*? Forward this email to them. Want your own copy? Reply to this email and we'll add you.

COMING IN DECEMBER

More from Karen's books: *Christ's Christmas Season* and Christmas crafts from *Life and Times of Jesus*, including the Manger Centerpiece.

✦ ✦ ✦

Contributors

Author/Publisher

Karen H Palmer

Devotional (“Just a Thought”)

Paulette Gobel

Great Quotes

Charles Spurgeon

Newsletter Design & Assembly

Daisy, AI assistant

Thank you! This issue would not be possible without you.

The Concept

from Christian Concepts for Kids • published monthly on the 1st

christianconceptsforkids.com • (803) 944-5900

You are receiving this because you subscribed to the Christian Concepts for Kids newsletter.

[Printable version \(PDF\)](#) | Reply UNSUBSCRIBE to be removed.

Christian Concepts for Kids, PO Box 660, Prosperity, SC 29127

Copyright © 2026 Christian Concepts for Kids, Inc.