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.

Whether you teach a class or simply love a child in your life, this lesson is a wonderful way to talk about thankfulness. Thank you for sharing Christian concepts with the children in your life.

— Karen

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FEATURED LESSON • FROM KAREN'S BOOK *LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS*

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 →

See the Whole Lesson

Karen’s books give you scripted lessons, so you know just what to say and ask. Each discussion comes with a craft, an indoor activity, and an outdoor activity.

The whole “John’s Message” lesson, with the Thank You Jar craft and both activities, is on this issue’s page.

See the full lesson →

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.

✦ ✦ ✦

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

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