

# Lesson 12

## God Deserves My Thanks

**Bible Lesson:** Psalm 103:1-5, James 1:17

**Memory Verse:** We love, because He first loved us. *1 John 4:19*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits. *Psalm 103:1-2*

**Catechism Memory Work:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil; and that He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all of which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

### TEACHER PREPARATION

#### Prepare to Teach:

- ✠ The student will list the things God has done for us as Creator.
- ✠ The student will understand that he is in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey God for all He does. He will willingly thank and praise God for His goodness.
- ✠ The student will identify something God has done for him/her that shows that God is good, and will tell about it.
- ✠ The student will personally know Jesus as Savior and will love and serve God for His greatest good gift.

#### Prepare Materials:

*Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:*

1. Teacher:
  - Bible
  - copy of student book (optional)
  - teacher's manual

New Word Chart with words for Lesson 12 added  
 Chart of First Article and Meaning  
 Chart or flash cards of memory verses (optional)

2. Students:
  - Bibles for those who do not bring their own, student books
  - activity sheets (removed from student books before class time, opt.)
  - pencils
  - scissors

#### Prayer Preparation

As you prepare for this lesson, thank God for His goodness and mercy to you. Thank Him for the privilege of serving Him by teaching a Sunday School class. Thank God for the work of grace He is doing in the hearts of your pupils. Pray that they may be living in daily sorrow and repentance and trust in Jesus. Pray that God may grant grace to each of your pupils to serve and follow Him.

### BIBLE BACKGROUND

#### Creed Study

In the 1st Article we are able to see the hand of God the Father at work in providing for our daily bread and all those material things that we appreciate. Without God revealing Himself to us we would have no idea to whom we should direct our thanks. But having revealed Himself in this way, as a loving and gracious Father

who has not only created us but sustains us through His continued provision we are able to confess that we believe in Him.

We who confess this have an opportunity as believers to thank, praise, serve, and obey God that unbelievers are never able to do. We recognize that our sinful nature continues to try and turn all thanks and praise back to ourselves. The confession of the Creed is a regular reminder of where our thanks should be directed.

When we think of obligations we are aware that we often do not fulfill obligations. We fail to thank and praise God as we should. But God continues to be merciful and guides us to repentance and forgiveness. The obligations are things that are good for us. In thanking God, praising Him, serving Him, and obeying Him we are bearing the fruit of the Spirit. We are able to echo what the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 2:19-20, "For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 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."

In all the gifts that we have read and heard about in the 1st Article, we see God's love for us. When we consider these obligations we can look at them as the tasks of someone who is a part of the family. We who have been loved so clearly by the Father can shower love on the other members of the family. We don't have to wonder what our reaction should be to all God's great and amazing gifts. We are called to use these gifts and abilities to bless and help those around us. We who believe and confess the Christian faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed have recognized what God deserves. Even in confessing the Creed we are by His grace and through His strength praising Him. This is a joy and privilege of the Christian alone.

The 1st Article's meaning ends with "This is most certainly true." We do not have many things in this world that we can say with certainty and conviction. But God's Word is true and the Apostles' Creed most certainly communicates the truth revealed to us in the Bible. The conclusion of the meaning of this 1st Article is a reminder of a truth that has stood the test of time because it is a confession echoing back to God what He has first told us in His Word. He is God the Father Almighty Maker of heaven and earth.

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome

When the students arrive, ask them to look through their books and see if they can remember what they learned about God, the Father, from each lesson.

### Open with Prayer

Ask the students to pray short prayers of thanks for what God the Father has done for them. Close with the prayer that God will help each one to thank Him in words and also by what he/she does.

### Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

**From the Bible:** Psalm 145:8

And

**From the Catechism:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps

me from all evil; and that He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; . . .

### Review

Lead the class in reciting Romans 5:8 together. Call on someone to tell what "demonstrates" means. Ask what the verse means. (God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to die for us, even though we are sinners and don't deserve it.) Call on one or two to recite the verse.

Cite memory verse references and call on students to recite the verses. You may want to do this exercise with teams

Use the following questions to review lesson 11:

1. What are some good things God has given you? (individual responses)
2. Why don't we deserve what God gives us? (because of our sins)
3. What do we deserve? (punishment for our sins, to be sent away from God forever because of them)
4. Why does God give us good things? (Because He is good and He loves us.)

5. What bad things had Jacob done? (He lied and stole the blessings that Esau was going to get.)
6. What did he deserve? (punishment)
7. What did he expect? (He expected Esau to be angry and to punish him.)
8. What did he do to protect himself? (He divided his family and livestock into two groups. He also prayed and asked God to help him.)
9. What happened to him? (Esau welcomed Jacob and treated him kindly.)

### Introduce Wall Words

goodness—  
obligation—  
language—  
neglect—

### Introduce the Lesson

**SAY** How do you feel if you've done a big favor for your little brother and he won't do anything for you? (response) How do you feel if you are babysitting and you tell your little brother or sister to do something and he/she still won't obey you even though you've been good to him/her and have read him/her stories? I'm sure you don't feel very happy if that happens, do you? Today's lesson will teach us how we should thank and serve God for all He has done for us.

### Teach the Lesson

**READ** paragraph 1 to the class. **SAY** Look at the cover of your book. What does it remind you of? (This symbol stands for God, the Father. The hand stands for God's hand that gives us many, many good gifts.) In this book, we have learned about the good things that God, the Father, has done for us. Let's make a list of them. You tell me and I'll write them on the chalkboard. (God made me, keeps me, gave me a soul so I could have fellowship with Him, gives me things, keeps me going, protects my body and soul.)

**SAY** Let's read the last sentence of the first paragraph together. **READ**.

**SAY** Read the title of today's lesson: God Deserves My Thanks. I don't deserve the good things God does for me, but God surely deserves my thanks. It is right that I should thank Him because He is good and merciful.

**READ** the second paragraph to the class. **SAY** Today's catechism assignment teaches us that we should thank, praise, serve, and obey God because of all the good things He does for us. **ASK** What does "for all which" refer to?

*\*More information will be added later.*

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Memory Work

**BIBLE VERSE**—1 John 4:19  
*We love, because He first loved us.*

**CATECHISM**—Have each student add the next segment of the Meaning to the First Article of The Apostles' Creed:

Add: *for all of which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.*

Then the student may draw whatever kind of line he wishes to make an edge for the puzzle piece. Cut the piece off along that line.

Allow students time to place all their puzzle pieces together. At this point, the students should have pieces for the following portion of The Apostles' Creed:

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil; and that He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all of which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.*

Then read together all the segments of The Apostles' Creed that the students have.

Students should place the puzzle piece in their envelope.

Send the puzzle home with the students and encourage them to put their puzzle together once a

day, read through it, and memorize the new section and any other sections they haven't committed to memory

See sample puzzle at the front of this Teacher Manual.

## Activity Pages

### Activity 1—God Is Good

#### ANSWERS

1. Provides
2. Deserve
3. Protects
4. Neighbor
5. Obey
6. Loves
7. Fulfillment
8. Goodness
9. Created
10. Thank

### Activity 2—Let's Review

#### ANSWERS

I believe that God has *created* me and all that *exists*; that He has *given* and still *preserves* to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my *members*, my *reason* and all the *powers* of my soul, together with *food* and *clothing*, home and family, and all my *property*; that He daily *provides* abundantly for all the needs of my *life*, protects me from all *danger*, and guards and *keeps* me from all *evil*; and that He does this purely out of *fatherly* and divine goodness and *mercy*, without any *merit* or *worthiness* in me; for all of which I am in duty bound to *thank*, *praise*, *serve*, and *obey* Him. This is most certainly *true*.

## CLOSING THE LESSON

### Closing Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for all You have done for me, and for all You do for me every day. Forgive me for not thanking You and serving You the way that I should. Live in me and make me thankful. In Jesus' Name, amen.*

### Assignment

1. Remind the students to take home the activity sheet and the first quarter student book which has now been completed.
2. Challenge the students to use the book to tell someone about something God has done for them that shows that God is good.
3. Remind the students to complete memorization of the memory verse and First Article and to review other memory work from the quarter.