

Activity: **Thankful Chains**

Discussion: **Giving Thanks**

Scripture: **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

YOU WILL NEED: *Slips of colored paper to be used in making Thankful chains (apx. 2 by 8 ½ inches) and something with which to write.*

## Thankful Chains

Give each student several slips of paper that are about 8 ½ x 2 inches (but don't use them all—Keep back at least one for each student). Tell them to write on them things they are thankful for and to tape them together in circles to form one large chain that contains everyone's "thanks" from your class.

*(NOTE: For Kindergarten, some of your kids will be able to write words the way they "hear" them but not all will be doing this yet. These children may need to tell you the word and you write it for them.)*

Ask the students—**What are some of the things you are thankful for?**

SAY: Did you notice that no one gave thanks for something bad, but God wants us to give thanks in every situation. Remember, when bad things happen, you can make the choice to rejoice.

*Get Ready for a Bible Drill  
Ready...1 Thessalonians 5:18...Go!*

Ask the students—**Who wrote the book of 1 Thessalonians?** (Paul. He wrote this letter to the church in Thessalonica.)

SAY: God says to give thanks in everything. So I'm going to give you one more slip of paper and I want you to write something on it that has happened in your life that you wish hadn't happened or something bad that happened to you.

**KEY:** Giving thanks doesn't mean you're glad this thing happened. It means that if you've given your life to Jesus and are walking with Him, that because Jesus is with you, you can know that He can even take bad things and turn them to your good. It's not saying thanks to the situation or the person who wronged you, it's saying thanks to God for being with you and taking care of you.