

# ParentPause

Encouragement for Parents of Preschoolers

November



How often have you encouraged your child to say thanks? While you are raising these tiny humans entrusted to you, you're trying to teach them how to behave and what to say in different circumstances. One of these phrases is "Thank you." But, you may eventually get the question from a child, "Why should I say thank you?" The reason we thank others isn't immediately obvious to kids, or sometimes even to us as adults.

When you take a minute to stop and thank God, have you wondered if it really matters to Him? There's a story from the Bible that shows us how significant it can be. In Luke 17:11-19, we read about when Jesus was traveling and was met by 10 men who all had leprosy. They called out to Him to heal them, and He did. He told them to go show themselves to the priests, which would have made their healing declared official, and they all ran to do this. One man then ran back to thank Jesus for healing him. Jesus turns to His disciples and remarks on how the other men did not come to thank Him. It mattered to Jesus that one man came to thank Him. And it matters to Him that we thank Him for who He is and all He does for us.

Saying thanks can be simple. When we say thanks to God, it doesn't have to be complicated. As you go about your day, take small moments to look around you and say, "Thank you, Jesus," for who He is, whatever is going on, or whatever is on your mind. He is so good to us, and it matters to Him that we say thanks!



## KIDS AND THANKS

Children don't always know what to say when they pray, and we can make this easier for them. Use these categories to help kids think of what they want to say to express thankfulness to God.

### Things

Though it may seem materialistic, for children it can be easiest to start with tangible objects to be what they thank God for. A heartfelt prayer of "Thank you God for my blankie," can mean a lot coming from a child!

### Experiences

Kids remember best the things that happened very recently, so you can use this to ask them about what they did that day, and what they can thank God for. An example would be "Thank you God for getting to play outside today."

### People

Children rely on other people to help care for them in so many ways, and so it is natural to point out the ways that others help them and to thank God for these people, such as, "Thank you God for teacher Becky."

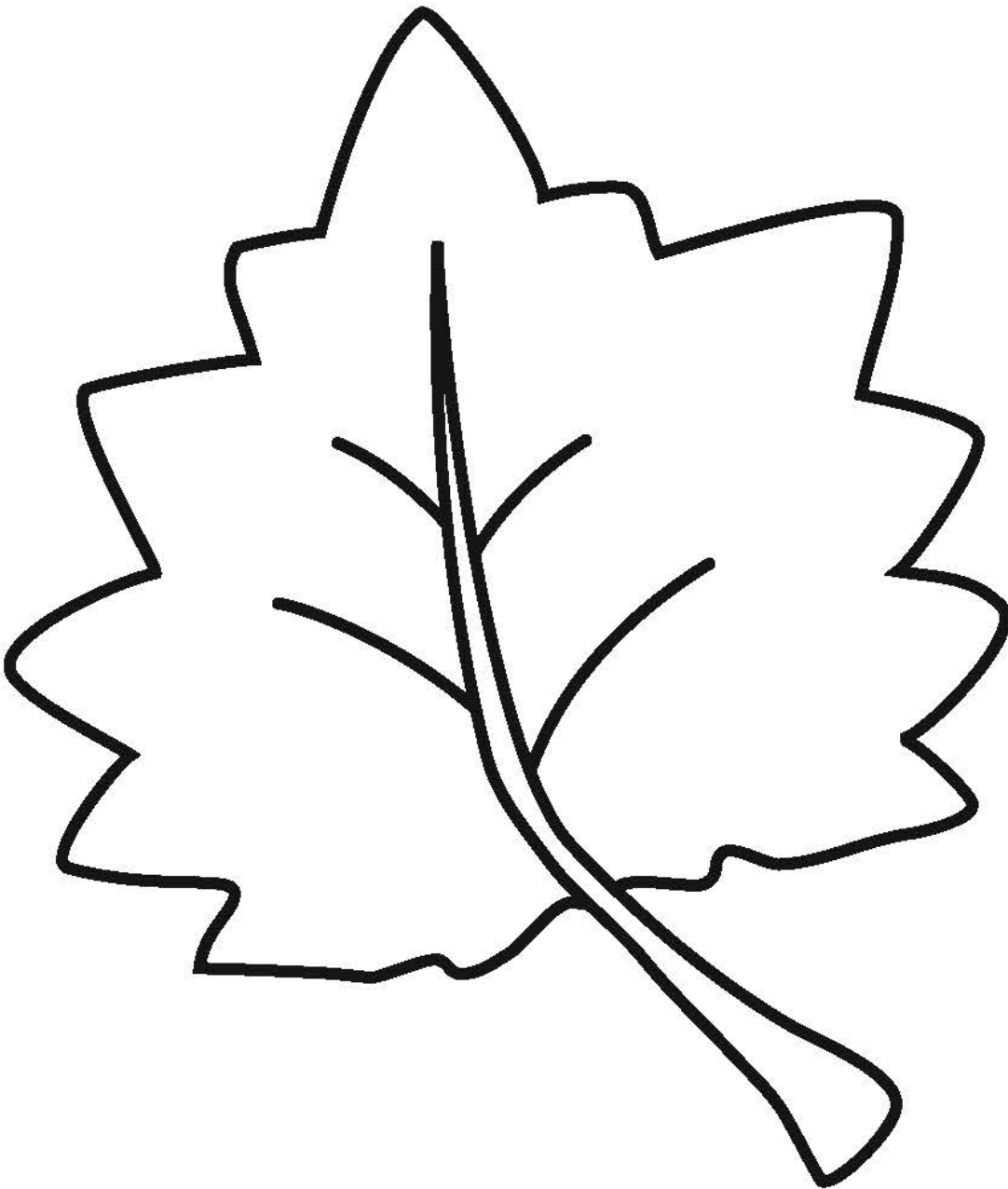
### God

Kids don't have to understand all of who God is to thank Him for all that He is and all that He does. They can say a short prayer like "Thank you God for being so big and loving."

**Challenge:** Work with your child to think of things that you both want to thank God for, such as, food or friends, and write them for your child on the leaf below. Allow your child then to use crayons to color in the leaf.

**Bonus Challenge:** Pray with your child and thank God together for all the things you have thought of!

## WE THANK GOD FOR...



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