

Post the following questions as a focus for reading and discussion of passages. These might be taped on the wall or printed on assignment sheets along with the passages to study.

- Who are the players in the drama of thanksgiving?
- What are the reasons for thanksgiving?
- What are the acts of thanksgiving?
- What is the setting for the acts of thanksgiving?
- What are the results of thanksgiving?

Creating Definitions

5 minutes

Now have groups create a definition of thanksgiving, suitable for Webster's, based on their biblical study. Distribute pieces of newsprint and markers and invite them to write in large letters their definitions. Hang these definitions on the wall near the definitions from earlier in the session.

Group Discussion

10 minutes

Discuss by asking the following questions:

- What is in the definitions that you expected?
- What is in the definitions that you did not expect?
- What strikes you about thanksgiving in its biblical setting?
- What thoughts do you have about thanksgiving in its modern context?
- Will there be a change in your personal celebration of Thanksgiving this year as a result of our study today?



thanksgiving

Use these 15-minute lessons to help children thank God for the gift of their bodies

Preschool-Kindergarten

1. Classy Bodies—Say: Today, we're going to celebrate Thanksgiving by celebrating a gift that God has given us for every day—our bodies.

Have children work together to create a "class body." Have each child contribute one part of his or her body by tracing an outline, then labeling, cutting out, and attaching it to the larger body. For example, one child traces his trunk and another child traces her elbow. Connect all the body parts until you've created an entire body.

2. Wonderfully Made—Read aloud Psalm 139:14 from the New International Version. Have each

child touch his or her part on the class body and tell at least one good use for this body part. For example, a child may say "God has given me my hand to help others," or "God gives me my ears to listen to my parents."

3. Say It's So—Place a long strip of masking tape on the floor. The tape must be long enough so each child can stand on it with some space for jumping. Stand at one end of the tape line and



