



HAVING
= A =
THANKFUL
Heart



Theme devotions, games,
craft and fundraising ideas **2016**



Devotional/Object Lessons

Reactions!

Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Are you ready to test your drama skills? I'm going to list a situation or circumstance and I'd like you to act out your reaction if this was really taking place right here in this room.

Are you ready, actresses/actors?

Circumstance #1: How would you react if an eagle came swooping through the ceiling and circled our heads?

Circumstance #2: How would you react if the fire alarm went off right now?

Circumstance #3: How would you react if crocodile crawled into this room?

Circumstance #4: How would you react if I served your favourite ice cream treat at snack time?

Circumstance #5: How would you react if you fell off your bike and broke your wrist?

Circumstance #6: How would you react if you received a \$100 gift certificate to your favourite store?

You did a wonderful job! We act to different circumstances in different ways, don't we? We're excited to eat ice cream treats and shop at our favourite store. We'd be frightened if a crocodile entered the room and we'd be in much pain if we broke a bone. No matter what our circumstance, whether screaming with excitement or silent in our fears, God wants us to give thanks to Him.

As actresses or actors, you responded in a lot of different ways. In all those ways, when God peeks at your heart, He wants to see an attitude of gratitude and thanks to Him. God's Word says, Give thanks in all circumstances for this is Gods will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Does that mean we have to thank God when our friend has cancer, or when someone says hurtful words to us, or we failed our math test? No! We don't give thanks to God for bad things. We should go to God with our tears and pour out our troubles to Him. He will listen; He will help us; He will never leave our side.

In the happy circumstances and the sad ones, we can thank God that He's there for us, giving us just what we need in that moment.

Being thankful, no matter what the circumstance, isn't a normal reaction. Our joy and thanks is not based on the circumstance, it's based on Jesus.

Because of Jesus and all that He has done, we can give thanks - alligators, ice cream, and all.

Let's pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you know every circumstance and situation in our lives. Some of those circumstances bring us much joy; some of those circumstances make us sad, afraid, and even worried. Thank you that we can give thanks to You in all circumstances because no matter what, You are here. You love us. You care for us. Thank you, Jesus, for those incredible promises. In Your Name we pray, Amen.

No Formulas.

Scripture:

1 Chronicles 16:34

You will need: a chalkboard/whiteboard and chalk/markers

On the chalkboard write: $2 + 2 =$

Say: Does anyone know what the answer is to this math question?

On the chalkboard write: $6 - 2 =$

Say: Does anyone know the answer to this math question?

On the chalkboard write: $10 + 3 =$

Say: Does anyone know the answer to this math question?

You GEMS/Cadets are so smart! Math is a formula. There are no surprises! We know that when we take two apples and add two apples to it, we will have four - every time! That's scientific! It's a formula that always holds true!

When we think about this year's GEMS/Cadets theme, Living the Secret! Having a Thankful Heart, we may be tempted to think of it as a formula.

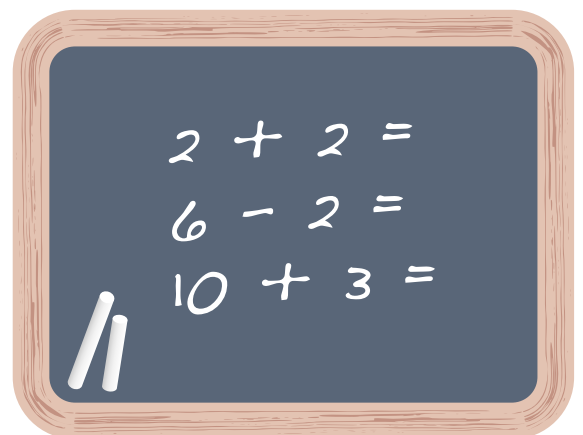
On the chalkboard write: *Give Thanks to God = Happiness*

We think to ourselves, "If I give thanks to God then I'll be happy:' Like a calculator that computes numbers, we may figure that the formula to happiness is to have a to-do list that reads, "Don't forget to thank God!" today.

How would you feel if your best friend called you on the phone and said, "Thank you for being my friend" and then she hung up and marked it off her to-do list for the day? You would wonder if she really meant it, wouldn't you?

Our thanksgiving to God should not be part of a formula or scientific approach to happiness. Instead our thanks to God should come from a relationship with God. He is your God, your caring Heavenly Father. 1 Chronicles 16:34 says, Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Don't thank God because you have to, because it'll compute a life of happiness for you. Thank God because you want to, because He's your Friend and Saviour and Lord. Thank God because He is good and His love for you goes on forever!



Guard Your Heart: Sing!

Scripture:

Romans 1:21,Philippians 4:6-7

Let's pretend that there is an enemy surrounding this building that wants to harm us, and you learned through a secret detective that there's one thing that will drive the enemy away. If you sing a particular song, the enemy will immediately turn his heels and run in the opposite direction!

If that were true, how many of you would want to learn the song that would drive the enemy away? *Raise your hand so the GEMS/Cadets know how to respond I would want to learn the song!*

Satan, who is God's enemy, wants to destroy us by tripping us up in lies, gossip, hatred, and other wrong or sinful things.

There's a song that will make him run in the other direction. Each time we sing a song of thanks to God, Satan runs!

Romans 1:21 says, *For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.* These people knew God, but refused to worship Him and give thanks to Him. When they snubbed God, the enemy stepped in and their hearts became dark with sin and wrong doing.

We need to guard our hearts with thanksgiving! Philippians 4:6-7 says, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with THANKSGIVING, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will GUARD your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Thanking God guards our hearts against the devil and his evil plans. Let's keep the enemy far away by thanking God in song!

Note to Leader: *Ask the GEMS/Cadets to suggest songs that have the words thanks or praise in the song title or lyrics.*



Thanks, Thread, & Troubles

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 4:17

You will need: Thread (string or yarn) and a scissors. Each group of six to eight GEMS/Cadets should have a piece of string, twelve to fourteen feet long, or use an entire ball of yarn and keep the group together as a single unit.

Give each group of GEMS/Cadets a determined length of string and a large open space to get creative. Say: I'd like you to work together in your group to form the following shapes: 1) a heart, 2) a sun, 3) a book. . . work your way to more challenging shapes that you or the GEMS/Cadets suggest.

When finished say. . .

You did a great job shaping different objects out of the thread that I gave you. Did you know that God uses different circumstances to shape you? Sometimes He uses wonderful circumstances like a loving family and friends at GEMS/Cadets to shape you. Other times He uses sad circumstances like an accident or troubling circumstances like a nasty classmate to shape you. All of the circumstances are used to shape you to be more and more like Jesus.

Troubling circumstances like sickness, fighting within your family, and devastating storms, may cause us to be afraid, angry, or want to run away. Run to Jesus in prayer and tell Him your troubles! The Bible tells us that our troubles only last for a moment, a nanosecond, compared to living forever with Jesus in Heaven. 2 Corinthians 4:17 says, *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us (2 Corinthians 4:17,MSG).The troubles that we face are shaping us to be more loving, kind, patient, and good - just like Jesus.

When you face circumstances that get you down, remember these three T words: Thanks, Thread, and Troubles. Give thanks to God that like thread that can be formed into many shapes, our troubles shape us to be more like Jesus!

I'd like each group to stand up and form a circle with your thread. Let's join together in circles of thanks and give thanks to God in prayer.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the reminder that you use all our circumstances - even our troubles - to shape us to be more like Jesus. Thank you that troubling circumstances last only a moment compared to the never-ending celebration that will circle your throne in Heaven. Help us to turn to you when we are sick, sad, and discouraged. Help us to always give thanks to You, in our smiles and in our tears. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank You Prayers

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 1:4, Philippians 1:3, 1Thessalonians 1:2, Philemon 1:4

You will need:

1. A few plastic planter boxes filled with water
2. Floating tea lights (one light for each boy/girl)
3. Matches/lighter
4. Quiet worship music (CD, or have someone play an instrument)
5. Four poster boards:



Poster board #1:

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1:4

Poster board #2:

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3

Poster board #3:

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Poster board #4:

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers. Philemon 1:4

How many of you say thank you to your Mum when she prepares a meal or buys you a new shirt for school? Raise your hand so they know how to respond How many of you say thank you to your brother or sister when they help you with your chores or a school project? Raise your hand so they know how to respond. How many of you say thank you to a teacher, coach, or friend when they compliment one of your talents? Raise your hand so they know how to respond.

That's wonderful! Saying thank you to people is not only polite, it pleases God. He loves to see His children say thank you to one another.

We often say thank you to people when they do or say something kind to us.

We say thank you to our parents and teachers, coaches and friends. Did you know that we should also thank God for these people? We should say thank you to God for our parents and teachers, coaches and friends!

The Apostle Paul often reminded his friends that He thanked God for them. Let's read parts of the letters that he wrote to his friends.

Hold up poster board #1: Paul wrote this letter to his friends living in Corinth. Let's read it together:
I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1:4

Hold up poster board #2: Paul wrote this letter to his friends who lived in Philippi. Let's read it together:
I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3

Hold up poster board #3: Paul wrote this letter to his friends in Thessalonica. Let's read it together:
We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Hold up poster board #4: Paul wrote this letter to his friend Philemon. Let's read it together:
I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers. Philemon 1:4

Tonight we're going to say thank you to God for the special people that are in your life. While the music is playing, I'd like you to say thank you to God for the people that He has put in your life to teach, care for, and love you. While we're praying, you can take turns coming up and lighting a candle as a special way of saying thank you to God. Option: Have the GEMS/Cadets hand a candle to the Leader who lights it and places it in the water.

When finished say. . .

The next time you say thank you to someone, remember the tea light prayers that you said tonight (today) and say thanks to God for that person!

Thank You for Food.

Scripture:

**Mark 6:41, Mark 8:6-7, Mark 14:22-23,
Acts 27:33a, 35**

You will need: a loaf of bread (with Mark 6:41 written out and attached to it), a box of crackers (with Mark 8:6-7 written out and attached to it), a bottle of juice (with Mark 14:22-23 written out and attached to it), and a can of soup (with Acts 27:33a,35 written out and attached to it)

What did you eat for dinner today? Listen to responses. I'd like you to stand up if you enjoyed what you had for dinner today and I'd like you to stay sitting if you didn't like your dinner. *Listen to reactions as GEMS/Cadets and Leader stand or sit When decisions have been made, ask everyone to sit again.*

Let's do a taste quiz to learn your favourite and least favourite foods. Each time a request has been made, have everyone sit down again before listing the next taste scenario.

Stand up if you like pizza.

Stand up if you like oysters.

Stand up if you like broccoli.

Stand up if you like fried chicken.

Stand up if you like prune juice.

Stand up if you like chocolate chip cookies.

We get all excited when our favourite meals are prepared, don't we? Sometimes we grumble and complain when we don't like the dinner menu. Although we have different tastes, we should always have one response: thankfulness.

I have some different food items on the table and I need four volunteers to come and pick up the food item and read the verse that is attached to it:

Loaf of bread: *Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he (Jesus) gave thanks and broke the loaves.* Mark 6:41

Box of crackers: *He (Jesus) told the crowd to sit down on the ground When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them.* Mark 8:6-7

Bottle of juice: *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take it; this is my body. Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it* Mark 14:22-23

Can of soup: *Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat* Acts 27:33a, 35

These verses all talked about two things: food and thankfulness. Each time you sit down for a meal - whether it's something you don't care for or your very, very favourite food, remember to bow your head, fold your hands, and say thank you to God. Let's pray.



God Is Always There!

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 31:8

I'd like everyone to stand up and spread out in the room. We're going to play a game where you need to form into groups and stand so everyone in the group has one foot touching someone else's foot. I'll call out a number between two and six.

Whatever number I call out is the number of GEMS/Cadets that you need in your group. Once the number is called, I will give you your feet instructions! Listen carefully; here we go!

Feet options: toe-to-toe, heel-to-toe, heel- to-heel, or you decide!

When finished playing, say. . .

I'd like you to sit down and think about your feet. Don't think about their size or the colour of your toe nails; think about all the places your feet go. Sometimes our feet bring us into fun circumstances like birthday parties, swimming pools, and theme parks. Sometimes our feet bring us into work circumstances like school and chores that we do at home. Sometimes our feet bring us into sad circumstances to places like funeral homes, hospitals, and accidents. In each of these circumstances, God is walking beside us.

One of the things that we can thank God for is that He is always with us. Listen to this incredible promise from Deuteronomy 31:8, *The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*

Doesn't that fill you with thanks to the tips of your toes? God is with you. He goes before you. He will never leave you. He will never reject you. You don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be discouraged. Instead, you can give thanks because God is always there!

Let's make a huge circle and instead of joining hands, we'll connect our circle by placing our feet side by side. Let's pray together:

Father God, thank you for your promise that no matter where our feet travel, you are there. You walk before us. You stand beside us. You never leave us. Those promises fill us with joy and gratitude to the tips of our toes. Thank you for always being with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Forgive and Forget

Scripture:

1 John 1:21

You will need:

1. Magicians Paper”(if you don't have this locally, it can be purchased on the Internet)
2. A pencil for each person
3. A clean coffee can
4. Matches

Can anyone tell me what the theme for GEMS/Cadets is this year? *Living the Secret! Having a Thankful Heart* That's right!

All year long we're going to learn (have been learning) that God wants us to give thanks to Him in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Having a thankful heart is the secret to being content. (Philippians 4:12) Our thanks should always be given to our good and loving God! (1 Chronicles 16:34)

How many of you have learned some or all of those things during your time here at GEMS/Cadets? Raise your hand so they know how to respond. That's great! How many of you spend extra time thanking God each day because you want to live the secret? **(Raise your hand so they know how to respond.)** How many of you sometimes forget to live the secret, and complain and grumble? *Raise your hand so they know how to respond.*

If we're really honest, we can think about times last week or maybe even today, when we complained, whined, or forgot to say thank you to God. Does anyone want to share something that they complained about recently? *Listen to responses.*

I have a piece of Magicians Paper and a pencil for each one of you. I'd like you to write down one or two things that you complained or whined about this week.

Look at what you wrote on your piece of paper. Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins (the wrong things we have done) that includes whining and complaining. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, every sin that we have ever done hung up on the cross with Him. He took all our sins, all our complaints and grumbings, all out-faults, and He suffered and died so that those sins would be forgiven. All of those things that you wrote down on your piece of paper hung on the cross with Jesus!

If you want Jesus to forgive your sins, write, "Please forgive me Jesus" on your piece of paper. The Bible tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness:" (1 John 1:9) If we tell Jesus that we are sorry, He will forgive us!

Let's ask Him in prayer to forgive us our sins. Dear Jesus, we are sorry for the times that we have sinned and done wrong things against you. Forgive us when our thoughts and words contain grumbling, whining, and complaining.

Make us clean and help us to always say thank you to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

I'd like you to put your pieces of paper in this coffee can. When we ask Jesus to forgive us, He does. He forgives and forgets all our sins! **Take a match light it and drop it in the can. There will be a flash and poof! The can is empty. Not even ash will be left. Show the can and emphasize how it is empty.**

Look! The paper is gone! It reminds me that when we ask Jesus to forgive us, our sins are gone, too! If you forget to say thank you to God or grumble and complain, ask Him to forgive you. Then give thanks that He will do just that - He will forgive and forget all your sins!

Games!

Caterpillar Relay

You will need: 1 bed sheet for each team

How to play:

1. Divide the GEMS / Cadets into two or more teams (dependent on size of your group).
 2. Divide each team into two groups. Have one half of each team go to the opposite side of the room for a relay race.
 3. Hand a bed sheet to the first in line on one side of the room. Instruct the GEMS / Cadets that at the word, "Go!" the first person must drop to the floor on the bed sheet, roll themselves up into a "caterpillar" and then "inch"/crawl to their teammates across the room. They must then unroll (the receiving team may help) out of the sheet. The next person in line rolls up and inches back to the other side.
 4. Continue until each person has inched their way to the other side.
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Pony Express Game

You will need: Two rags or handkerchiefs

How to play:

1. Split the GEMS / Cadets into two teams.
 2. Have them form two lines and wrap their arms around the waists of the person in front of them so they form a long chain.
 3. Stick a rag or handkerchief in the back pocket of the last person. Game goal: The front person of one team is to get the "tail" of the other, while the tail of the other team tries to avoid getting caught.
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Toe to Toe

You will need: fast-stepping music

How to play:

1. Ask the GEMS / Cadets to pair off and lock hands.
 2. Each player tries to tap the top of one of their partner's feet with their own feet.
 3. GEMS / Cadets hop around trying to avoid being stomped on by their partner.
 4. Once a player is tapped three times, they are out and the winning partner challenges another winner.
 5. Game continues until only one player is left.
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Thankfulettio!

You will need: cans of Alphabet Spaghetti and plastic tablecloths (this is messy!)

How to play:

1. Spread plastic tablecloths over every area where the GEMS / Cadets will be playing! Open the cans ahead of time (place in bowls if cans have sharp edges that may cause cuts).
 2. Form teams or host individual competition.
 3. Instruct the GEMS / Cadets: Using the Spaghetti letters, you have five minutes to write out as many words as you can with your Alphabet Spaghetti. Note to counsellor: *If you have the Alphabet Spaghetti with meat-balls, you can use the meatballs as a letter of your choosing.* Have all your words be things you are thankful for in your life.
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JippityJump

This is a great game to help learn the names of GEMS / Cadets at the Club.

You will need: A circle of chairs (one for each GEM / Cadet in the group)

How to play:

1. Have all the GEMS / Cadets take a seat in the circle of chairs.
 2. Instruct the players to learn the name of the person on there right and left.
 3. Choose one player to stand in the middle. The person in the middle points to someone and say "Left" or "Right" and the person that was pointed to must say the name of the person on the side indicated before the person in the middle says "Jippityjump:'
 4. If the person in the middle says "Jippityjump" first, then the person that they pointed to becomes the person in the middle and the former person in the middle takes their place in the circle. If not, the person in the middle picks someone else and continues until they win and is replaced.
 5. Play continues as long as you allow.
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Put Your Hands Together

Slumber party fun!

You will need: a blindfold for each girl and small pieces of paper with consecutive numbers on it (total amount of the group)

How to play:

1. Give each player a piece of paper with a number on it. If there are 15 players, you would number the papers 1-15. Tell the players to keep their numbers a secret!
 2. Blindfold the players.
 3. The one rule to the game is NO TALKING!
 4. The object of the game is to form a single file line in numerical order with their assigned numbers.
 5. Hint: Clap your number with your hands and then position yourself in between the person with the number lower and greater than yourself.
 6. Extra fun: Record the game and play it back for a second round of laughter!
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Drama Time

No props needed

How to play:

1. Ask two players to volunteer to begin this game.
 2. The GEMS / Cadets decide on a scene that the two volunteers will act out, such as "nervous about the first day of school." or "going to the dentist." The first time the volunteers have 60 seconds to act out the scene, then 30 seconds, then 10 seconds, then 5 seconds. It's funny!
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Circle of Cooperation

No props needed A great team building activity!

How to play:

1. Have 10-15 players sit in a circle on the floor with their legs extended toward the centre. Their feet should all be touching.
 2. Have them join hands.
 3. The goal is to work together until everyone is standing. They may not let go of each other's hands, and they may not use their hands to push off the ground for additional support. If one person falls or break the chain, the group must start over.
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Shoe Toss

An easy outdoor game that GEMS / Cadets love.

You will need: the players shoes

How to play:

1. Have the players stand behind a designated mark and instruct them to toss one shoe as far as they're able
 2. The person whose shoe travels the farthest distance wins.
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Thankful Toss

You will need: balloon (indoor activity) beach ball (outdoor activity)

How to play:

1. The goal of Thankful Toss is to keep the balloon or beach ball in the air.
 2. Every time someone hits the balloon or ball, they must FIRST (or at the same time) say something for which they are thankful. Try to keep repeats at a minimum!
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I Like Those Who ...

A fun, get-to-know you activity!

You will need: chairs (minus one) for each player in the group

How to play:

1. Set the chairs in a circle.
 2. One person stands in the middle and all the other players sit in a chair.
 3. The person in the middle says, "I like those who .. :'" and then they name something they like: who are wearing red, who play an instrument, whose birthday is in June, who is the middle child ...
 4. Everyone whom that description describes gets up and runs to a different chair, including the person in the middle. Whoever doesn't get a chair is now in the middle and must create a new "I like those who
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Imitator

A good lead in to talk about reflecting Christ. Also serves as an object lesson about the pressure to imitate the ways of the culture. No props needed

How to play:

1. Have the players stand in a circle.
2. The leader (perhaps a counsellor/CIT) starts the game by creating a pose.
3. The person on their right will try to imitate the pose exactly.
4. The leader (counsellor/CIT) will then change poses and the player to their right will attempt to imitate exactly. This should continue around the circle!
5. Change leaders once the pose makes its way around the circle.
6. Note to counsellor: For an added challenge (and more fun!) have the poses go both ways around the circle (to the right and left).

Pass it!

You will need: an object for every player in the group. Objects can be large, small, different shapes. Example. a shoe, keys, balloon, pie plate, hairbrush, curling iron, etc.

How to play:

1. Each player takes her object and forms a circle with the other girls in the group.
 2. On your signal, everyone passes their object to the right, keeping the objects moving at all times.
 3. When someone drops an object, they must leave the game, but the object stays in the circle. In time, it will become more and more difficult to avoid dropping an object since there are more objects than people.
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A Clique·n Lesson

No props needed If your club struggles with cliques, use this activity as a lead in to discuss that problem.

How to play:

1. Ask the GEMS / Cadets to divide into two groups. Don't count them out or even try to make them even.
 2. Choose two volunteers from each group. Tell the four volunteers out loud in front of the others that they are to do whatever it takes to get into one of the two groups. You can push or shove your way into the group - do whatever it takes to get into a group.
 3. After five minutes ... ask the volunteers, "What did you have to do to get into your group?" Listen to responses - push, shove, twisted arms, etc. Talk about how hard it was to break in - those that succeeded and those that didn't make their way into the group.
 4. Look at the other players in the group, "I told the volunteers to do whatever it takes to break into a group. What did I tell you?" Listen to responses- you didn't tell them anything. You gave them no instructions! "I didn't tell you anything. I never told you that you had to keep them out. You could have opened your arms and allowed them in!"
 5. Say: Sometimes we keep people out of groups, even when we're not deliberately trying to do so. What are some things that we can do here at GEMS / Cadets to make sure everyone is included and experiences the love of Jesus in our words and actions?
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Thankful Relay

You will need: *someone to be the timekeeper and an announcer to call out GEMS / Cadets names.*

How to play:

1. Ask a volunteer to come to the front and begin. They has ten seconds to list as many things as she can that they are thankful for.
2. After ten seconds, the timekeeper shouts, "Time!" and the announcer calls out a player's name. Be sure to keep track of who is called so all the GEMS / Cadets and the counsellors get called to the front.
3. The player whose name gets called runs to the front and lists as many things as they can in ten seconds. Continue until everyone has an opportunity to share their praise to the Lord!

Coolin' Off

Great fun at a summer campout!

You will need: a plastic wading pool filled with 4-5 bags of ice and marbles (at least one for each player), stopwatch

How to play:

Tell the GEMS / Cadets that you're going to time them to see how long it takes for each player to fish one marble out of ice with their bare toes. It will be chilling fun! Challenge them to work together to beat their initial time.

Option: Scatter lots of marbles in a grassy area. Give each player a small plastic bucket that they need to place on the ground (the bucket can't be moved once it's placed!). When the players are cued to begin, each person picks up a marble with their toes, hops back to their plastic bucket, and drops the marble in it. The game continues until all the marbles are picked up. The person with the most marbles in their bucket is the winner

So Statuesque!

No props needed!

How to play:

1. Instruct players to mingle throughout the room or in a designated area outside. Keep mixing them up so they're not staying with the same group.
 2. Call out a number that they need to group into. Example: if you call out the number three, they should get in groups of three.
 3. Call out an object or animal for the groups to work together to portray. Examples: dog, church building, ring, or pineapple. Each statute must be a whole. Example: group of 3 would form one pineapple not three pineapples.
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Guess Who?

No props needed!

How to play:

1. Ask one volunteer to step out of the room and ask the rest of the players to stand in a circle. Choose a leader within the circle.
2. The leader has to do a movement and everyone in the circle has to copy the leader. Instruct the leader to change their movements often, but the volunteer must not catch them. Instruct the other players to be subtle. Don't look directly at the leader or it will be too easy for the volunteer to discover the leader.
3. Ask the volunteer to come back into the room. It's their job to guess who the leader is (the person who is in charge of changing the movements).

Crafts!

Theme Banner Pattern

You will need:

1. 1 m of white background fabric (felt, cotton, moire, or other fabric)
2. 1/4 m of flesh or peach fabric
3. 3/8 m of soft pink fabric
4. 3/8 m of bright pink fabric
5. 3/8 m of purple fabric
6. 2 m iron-on adhesive (Wonder Under™ or Heat'n Bond)
7. Dowel to hang it by
8. Scissors
9. Pattern found in centre of the Theme Resource Book (enlarge the pattern -250%)



What you will do:

Please read all instructions before starting.

Prepare the background:

Cut the white fabric to measure 36 x 45. Put a small hem on the two long sides and also hem the bottom. Fold back the top edge and make a casing large enough to fit your dowel through.

Prepare the background:

1. Apply iron on adhesive to the back of the four coloured pieces following the manufacturing directions.
2. Cut pattern pieces from the pattern found in the centre of the Theme Resource Book (be sure to enlarge it by 250%).
3. Trace patterns to the paper side of the adhesive, sure to reverse the pattern pieces when tracing and to trace the pieces on the correct colour of fabric. Cut out the pieces.
4. Remove the paper backing from all the banner pieces; place them on the background fabric as pictured, starting with the girls body. Fix: these in place.
5. Next add the theme words and fuse these in place
6. After applying all the pieces, add the verses. It can again be cut from fabric, written by hand printed on your computer using the new iron transfers that are available.
7. To finish your banner add the year in the lower right corner of the banner.

Journal cover ideas

Pipe Cleaner Journal cover

You will need: a plain spiral-bound note book and a sheet of coloured paper for each journal, tacky glue and pipe cleaners (extra wide, fuzzy work best).

What you will do:

1. Fold the pipe cleaner ends against the top and bottom edges of the inner cover.
2. Glue the sheet of coloured paper onto the inside front cover. This will conceal the pipe cleaner ends and help secure them in place

Photo Frame Journal Cover

You will need: a plain spiral-bound note-book and a self-adhesive vinyl photo pocket for each journal and glue.

What you will do:

1. Glue the photo pocket to the front cover of the journal.
 2. Encourage each person to put their favourite photo, artwork, memory verse, or post-card inside the “frame:”
-

Idea #1:

You will need: pretty card stock and 20 sheets of unlined copy/printer paper per girl, a paper cutter and a comb-binding machine (a local office store may also provide this service). **Decorating options:** stickers, rubberstamps, markers, fabric, glitter, paint, rhinestones, etc.

What you will do:

1. Using the paper cutter, cut the card stock in half so you end up with two sheets of paper that are 4 1/4” x 5 1/2: When finished, cut the unlined copy/printer sheets in half.
 2. Decorate the cover in whatever creative way you choose.
 3. Bind the journal using a comb-binding machine.
-

Idea #2:

You will need: unlined copy/printer paper, paper punch, ribbon.

Decorating options: stickers, rubberstamps, markers, fabric, paint, rhinestones, etc.

What you will do:

1. Decide how many pages you’ll use for each journal.
 2. Fold the pages in half and punch two holes along the folded side. One about 1/3 from the top, one about a 1/3 from the bottom.
-

Idea #3:

You will need: Two craft foam sheets, two loose-leaf binder rings and sheets of paper (you decide the number of sheets!) for each girl. You will also need a hole punch, ruler, paints, and paint brushes. **Decorating options:** stickers, rubberstamps, markers, fabric, glitter, beads, etc.

What you will do:

1. Decorate one of the craft foam sheets in what-ever creative way you wish. This will be your front cover.
2. Measure and mark 2” down from the top edge of the front cover (along left side) and 2” up from the bottom edge. Punch holes. Repeat steps for the back cover (foam sheet) and the sheets of paper for the journal.
3. Complete journal by attaching the covers and paper with the loose-leaf binder rings.



Idea #4:

You will need: two boards {1/4" thick} cut to 8" w x 5" w: saw to cut boards, sandpaper, drill and drill bit, hole punch, pencil, unlined copy/printer paper, twine, scissors, markers or paint and paintbrush.

What you will do:

1. Have an adult cut the boards to 8 1h" x 5 1h" and drill two holes (align with what will be your paper holes) on the left hand edge of the board.
2. Sand boards to smooth rough edges.
3. Place paper under a board and mark with a pencil where the board holes are located.
4. Paper-punch the two holes in the paper in the places that were marked.
5. Cut two small strings of twine and lace through the holes and tie knots. Make sure you can easily turn the pages before knotting the twine.
6. Use markers or paints to decorate the journal cover.



Bookmarks for Journals

Idea #1:

You will need: craft foam, scissors, glitter glues. What you will do:

1. Have the GEMS / Cadets trace their hand onto a piece of craft foam.
2. Carefully cut out the hand shape.
3. Use the glitter glues to polish the "fingernails" and paint on rings or bracelets.

Idea #2:

You will need: coloured paper or card stock, glue, magnetic strips, scissors, and markers, plus decorating items like stickers, beads, rubberstamps, etc. What you will do:

1. Cut one rectangle 14" x 3 1/2".
2. Fold the rectangle in half.
3. Glue matching magnetic strips to the ends (inside of the folded rectangle).
4. On the "front" of the bookmark, decorate as you wish.

Candle Holders

Very pretty, but will take more than one meeting since the decoupage needs time to dry in between coats.

You will need: small glass candle holder for each GEM / Cadet (Option: use a baby food jar), designs that appeal to **girls like daisies, ladybugs, hearts, etc.** (Designs can be found on wrapping paper, calendars, greetings cards, magazines, etc. Thin paper decoupages best), tissue paper (colours that correspond to wrapping paper design), decoupage cuticle scissors, small paintbrush, and damp paper towel.

What you will do:

1. Choose your design and cut out the pictures.
2. Use cuticle (very small) scissors to cut out the pictures.
3. Make sure the glass candleholder (baby food jar) is clean before you begin.
4. Tear pieces of tissue paper into 1 inch pieces.
5. Use the paintbrush to brush decoupage on to the back of one of the pieces of tissue paper.
6. Position the tissue paper on the glass and then brush more decoupage on top of it. Continue overlapping tissue paper until the entire candle holder is covered (including the bottom).
7. When candleholder is covered, brush one last coat of decoupage over the entire candleholder. Use damp paper towel to wipe off any excess decoupage.
8. Let dry for at least one hour.
9. Position the design, hearts, daisies, ladybugs, etc. on top of the tissue paper. First brush some decoupage on the back of the pictures and then place them on the glass.
10. When designs are all attached, brush another coat of decoupage over the entire glass and let dry.
11. Add two or three more coats of decoupage after each coat has dried.



Thank You Box Option:

Decoupage photos of things that you are thankful for (actual photos, art work, pictures cut out of magazines, greeting cards, etc.) onto a small shoebox.

Quotable Picture Frames

You will need: a plain picture frame (preferably with a wide edges) for each girl (look for frames at rummage sales/second hand shops, etc.), craft paint or paint pens in your choice of colours, small paintbrushes. **Optional:** beads, glitter, rhinestones.

What you will do:

1. Preparation: Each GEM / Cadet needs to choose a frame, choose the colour of craft paint she wants to use, and choose a quote, a Bible verse they wants to put on their frame, or you can write something you're thankful for!
 2. Carefully paint your quote on the frame's edges.
-

Personalized Bulletin Board

You will need: Cork bulletin board and fabric at least two inches wider than the bulletin board for each girl. You will also need unfinished wooden letters to spell out the girls' names or initials, spray adhesive glue suitable for fabric, paint, paintbrushes, and glue gun.

What you will do:

1. Centre the fabric over the board and make sure it can be folded around each side of the bulletin board.
2. Fold half the fabric back from the board and spray it with the glue suitable for fabric.
3. Use your fingers to smooth and press the fabric. Start at the centre and work toward the edges.
4. Repeat the steps with the remaining half of the fabric. Be sure to push all air bubbles to the edges!
5. After the fabric is glued to the board, turn it to the backside so you can spray the edges. When the fabric comes to a corner, fold the fabric like a present. Let it set for one hour for the adhesive to dry.
6. While it is drying, paint the wooden letters in the colours and patterns that you wish.
7. Once the letters and fabric are dry, use the hot glue gun to attach the wooden letters to the bulletin board.



Thank You Art

What you will need: glue and liquid tempera paint or food colouring; or thinned coloured glue, paintbrushes, two equal-size sheets of wax paper and 12" piece of string per GEM / Cadet, glitter, hole punch and ...

"Thank You God for Your World" printed on a piece of paper for each GEM / Cadet, plus colourful leaves, flowers, pine needles, and other natural objects OR

"Thank You God for My Family" printed on a piece of paper for each GEM / Cadet, plus photos of their family

OR

"Thank You God for My Club" printed on a piece of paper for each GEM / Cadet, plus photos of your GEM / Cadet doing different activities at club

What you will do:

1. Mix glue with paint or food colouring, or use coloured glue thinned with a little water.
2. Paint the glue onto one sheet of wax paper. Coat the paper really well!
3. Stick leaves, flowers, photos, etc. (whatever option you chose) onto the paper.
4. Sprinkle glitter on the project.
5. Paint glue onto the other sheet of wax paper, than place it on top of the first sheet.
6. Press the sheets together. Carefully work the air bubbles to the outer edges.
7. Punch a hole near the top.
8. Use string to hang the picture in a window.

No Sew Pillows!

You will need: a square throw pillow and two pieces of fleece (large enough to leave a 4 inch margin on each side of the pillow) and a scissors for each girl.

What you will do:

1. Place a square throw pillow on a piece of fleece.
2. Cut around the pillow, leaving 4 inches of fleeces on each side.
3. Lay the cut piece of fleece on top of another piece of fleece. Cut the fleece to same size.
4. Place the pillow on top in centre. Cut out the four corners (4" x 4" square).
5. Cut an equal number of strips on each side. Strips should be about 4 inches long and approximately 1 1/2 inches wide.
6. Gently lift top layer of fleece. Tuck the pillow between the fleece pieces.
7. Tie fleece strips in double knots around the pillow.

A Tubular Thought

You will need: an empty gift-wrap tube for each GEM / Cadet, plus wrap-ping paper, adhesive tape, and colourful tacks.

What you will do:

1. Wrap an empty gift-wrap tube with a piece of wrapping paper.
2. Put a tack on the inside of each end of the tube to hang it on the wall.
3. Use the other tacks to hold pictures, reminders, and favourite quotes.

Grandma's Pincushion

A wonderful thank you gift for Grandmothers or Adopt-a-Grandmother ministry

You will need: a small terra cotta pot, (3 1/2' across at the top), fabric (9 1/2" circle), a handful of cotton batting, and a rubber band for each GEM / Cadet. You will also need paint brushes, acrylic paint, hot glue, tacky glue, and decorations: decorative ribbon, fake jewels or buttons, rickrack, etc.

What YOU will do:

1. Paint the terra cotta pot and let dry.
2. Use the hot glue or tacky glue to dress up the outside of the pot with decorations of your choice.
3. Cut the fabric into a 9 1/2" circle.
4. Put a handful of cotton batting in the centre of the fabric circle.
5. Gather the fabric around the batting and secure it with a rubber band.
6. Glue the fabric cushion inside the pot. Add pins and sewing notions.



Tiny Turtles

You will need: smooth, flat oval-shaped pebbles, puzzle pieces, green paint, paint brushes, black fine-line permanent marker, and hot glue or tacky glue.

What you will do:

1. Wash the small, flat oval-shaped pebble.
2. Find a puzzle piece that is slightly larger than the pebble. Look for a piece that when placed under the stone, looks like four legs and a head are peeking out.
3. Paint the puzzle piece and stone green.
4. Once it is dried, glue the pebble on top of the puzzle piece.
5. Using the black permanent marker, draw a small circle on top of the pebble. Draw a second circle around the outside edge of the pebble. Draw a third circle in between the small and large circle. Finish off the turtle design by drawing lines that come from the centre circle to the outside circle.
6. Add two small dots for eyes on the head of at the puzzle piece.

Pencil Holder

You will need: tin can, self-adhesive foam sheet, glue, self-adhesive foam shapes, gems, and other decorations.

What you will do:

1. Carefully clean out the tin can. Make sure there are no sharp edges.
2. Wrap the foam around the can and cut off the part that overlaps itself.
3. Remove the backing from the foam sheet and carefully wrap it around the tin can. If you don't have self-adhesive foam you can glue it to the can.
4. Decorate with foam shapes, gems, and other decorations.



Salty candle Holder

You will need: a baby food jar, 1 cup of salt, food colouring (at least three different colours), sandwich bags, decorative ribbon, votive candle (tea light), gems and other decorations, paper (to serve as a funnel).

What you will do:

1. Divide the salt evenly into the three sandwich bags.
2. Drop one drop of food colouring into one bag of salt. Shake and massage the colouring into the salt. If you desire a darker colour, add more food colouring.
3. Repeat step two using additional colours. Put salt aside to dry.
4. Decorate the jar with gems and other desired decorations.
5. Glue the ribbon around the mouth of the jar. Be sure that it is glued flat and will stay out of the way of the candle.
6. Use a rolled up piece of paper to serve as a funnel. Carefully add the salt to the jar in layers. Leave room for the candle. Do not shake the jar!
7. Put the candle on top of the jar.

Nature Memories

You will need: Plaster of Paris mix, medium size container, disposable mixing bowl, plastic wrap.

What you will do:

1. Have the GEMs /Cadets collect stones, rocks, sticks, pinecones, and other natural objects. Encourage them to choose items that are not too small or they will sink to the bottom of the plaster and will not be seen.
 2. Place a sheet of plastic wrap in the container.
 3. In the disposable bowl, mix about 1 1/2 cups of the Plaster of Paris according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 4. Pour the mixture into the plastic lined container.
 5. Add a few items found outside to the Plaster of Paris mixture. Allow the plaster to set.
 6. Halfway through the drying process, have the GEMs /Cadets scratch the date and their initials into the plaster.
 7. Remove the project from the container after it has dried.
-

Soap on a String

You will need: Ivory Snow detergent (or any other soap flakes), liquid food colouring, water vegetable oil, bowl, string.

What you will do:

1. In a bowl pour three cups of soap flakes.
2. Add 1 to 1 1/2 cups of water.
3. Add a few drops of food colouring to create your desired colour.
4. To shape it, take a drop or two of vegetable oil and rub it in the palm of your hands. Shape it in anyway you wish!
5. Cut a piece of string and tie the ends together. Gently push the knotted end into the finished shape.
6. Let the soap stand over night until hardened.

OPTIONAL: Press soap dough into lightly grease candy moulds. Dry overnight before removing from mold.

Beaded candles

You will need: small crafting pins (make sure you note the size of the hole in the beads you choose), beads, plain, inexpensive candles.

What you will do:

1. Help the GEMS / Cadets decide on a pattern that they want to apply to their candle. You can choose a random pattern, a simple pattern like a heart, sun, or smiley face, their initials or name, or their own unique creation.
2. Use the point of one of the crafting pins and map out the pattern by making small pin marks into the candle wax. During this step they shouldn't press too deeply into the candle in case they change their mind about what pattern to create.
3. Using a crafting pin place the bead onto the candle by inserting the pin through the hole in the bead. Press firmly until the pin is inserted entirely into the candle.
4. Repeat until you have completed your pattern.

Decoupage Plates

You will need: Mod Podge (or other decoupage sealer/glue), foam paint brush, clear glass plate (available at the dollar store), cotton or poly/cotton print fabric (enough to cover the diameter of each plate), razor blade, newspapers, coffee can or other object with a large diameter

What you will do:

1. Wash and dry the plate.
2. Lay the plate on your fabric and move the plate around until the pattern you see through the plate looks good.
3. Lay fabric on newspaper and “paint” Mod Podge on the right side. Make certain to coat the fabric well.
4. Lay the plate face down on another sheet of newspaper.
5. Spread the fabric over the back of the plate. Pick up the plate and look through it to make sure you have the fabric positioned the way you want it.
6. Smooth the bubbles in the fabric. Along the edges, smooth the fabric over the rim of the plate.
7. Once you have the fabric smoothed and you are certain it is adhering to the rim, place the plate face down on a coffee can, or some other object with a large diameter, to dry. The Mod Podge will dry in a few hours, but if you can leave it overnight the excess fabric will be easier to trim.
8. **Adults only:** Once the fabric is dry, trim the excess from the rim with the razor blade.

NOTE: If you got Mod Podge on the front of the plate you can scrape it off with your fingernail or rub it off with a dry, plastic dish scrubber. The plate cannot be submerged in water, but you can wipe off the face with a damp cloth.



Necklace Hanger

You will need: scissors, glue or hot glue gun, cardboard, material (large scraps work well), cup hooks, quilt batting, lace (optional), picture hanger.

What you will do:

1. Cut cardboard into desired shape. Example: heart
2. Place layer of batting, the shape of your card board, on cardboard shape.
3. Cut material, slightly larger (enough to turn under along edge), and place it over batting and cardboard. Pull tight.
4. Hold edges down with clothespins or clips. Glue edges of material to back of cardboard.
5. Screw hooks into front of shape after glue dries.
6. Add hanger to back and lace to edges for more decoration.

Service Projects/Fundraiser

Surprise Thank-filled Boxes

Have the GEMS / Cadets fill boxes (you determine the number) with goodies such as wrapped candies, handmade pictures, a Scripture verse, pencils, or a bookmark, and a note of thanks within a thank-you card. Have them wrap or decorate their boxes. Have them think of people who serve in your church, such as pastor teachers, custodians, secretaries, musicians, etc. Help the GEMS / Cadets deliver the boxes to the individuals you choose. They will want to see the responses of surprise and gratitude!

Bingo Scavenger Hunt

Collect food for the food shelf, using a bingo card. Enlarge card below. Divide the GEMS / Cadets into the counsellors' cars and give each group a bingo card (or two). You determine the time limit and the food items listed on your bingo card. The object is to collect items from the same row or diagonal to get a bingo. The first team to return with a bingo wins. Bonus to the team that fills the entire card! Donate the collected items to a needy family or the food shelf.

| B | I | N | G | O |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cereal (hot or cold) | Bottled water | Instant Potatoes | Boxed Dinners | Coffee or Tea |
| Canned Fruit | Fruit Snacks | Pancake Mix | Peanut Butter | Canned Juices and Juice Boxes |
| Boxed Rice | Canned Vegetables | Disposable Diapers | Tomato Sauce | Baby Formula |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Pancake Syrup | Canned soups, chili, stew | Canned meat | Jelly |
| Baby Food | Canned Pasta | Dried Rice | Dried Beans-Pinto or Black | Pastas |

Clean up!

Is there a vacant lot, church parking lot, school playground, City Park or other place in your community that needs some cleaning? Clean up the rubbish. Conclude your hard work with a picnic!

Adopt-A-Grandfriend

Visit a retirement centre, nursing home, senior's apartment building, or other facility that would welcome a visit from your Club. Play an easy get-to-know-you game; sing songs for the residents, and gift them with a craft specifically made for them at a previous Club meeting.



I Care Kits

Put together "I Care Kits" for homeless shelters or disaster victims. Provide things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, nail clippers, shampoo, and lotion. Package your gifts in plastic bags or shoeboxes. Be sure to include a note of encouragement, telling them that this "I Care Kit" was made in Jesus' Name.



Pet Bake Sale/Dog wash

Look for recipe books in the pet section of any bookstore and you'll find easy to make homemade dog biscuits and cat treats. You'll need tables to display your treats, pet shampoo, old towels, buckets, and several garden hoses for the dog wash.

Dinners

Plan your dinners around church/school activities when families are out and about. Providing a meal often makes it easier for families to attend a weeknight church service or special school assembly.

Ice Cream Social: Host an Ice Cream Social on the front lawn of your church. Provide ice cream and all the toppings!

BBQ Supper: Serve up BBQ's, chips, and dessert. Ask parents and counsellors to donate BBQ and desserts. Have the GEMS dress up in country western clothes and cowboy hats. Optional: use checkered tablecloths and straw bales for decorations. Be sure to have take-out containers on hand for those who want to bring meals home to their families.

Spaghetti Dinner: Spaghetti and garlic toast or bread sticks will be a hit with everyone. Don't forget the complimentary breath mints! Have Italian music softly playing in the background.

10% of a Day of Sales

Talk to a local business owner/manager and check out the possibility of them donating 10% of a day of sales. Advertise the date widely, letting your Club supporters know the details. Some businesses may also consider having a donation bucket for your Club at their cash registers.

Crazy, Crazy Calendar!

Choose a month to distribute your Crazy, Crazy Calendar. Fill the dates with crazy and silly things like, "Put in one 10 cents for every year you have been alive;" "Put 50 cents in for every vehicle that you own;" "Add a dollar for every pet that you own;" and don't forget, "Surprise us with today's amount!" At the end of the month you'll be surprised how much change rolls in for your club!



Contact us

For more information please contact us at
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Cadets Website: www.cadets.org.au

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