

Activity instructions

Today we are thinking about celebration and praising God and thanking him for all he has done throughout the 12 years of The Lighthouse using Psalm 100

Activity 1: Thank you God banner

You will need: paper (several sheets of A4 pages joined together will work well), markers, coloured paper, stickers, ribbon, cloth or anything else you would like to use to decorate your banner, scissors and glue (glue sticks or PVA depending on the decorations you use- PVA will work best for ribbon or cloth)

Write 'Thank you God for everything' on the centre of your banner. You might like to use bubble letters and fill them in with scraps of coloured paper or colour them in. Then draw or use collage pictures to create pictures of some of the things you would like to say thank you to God for.

Think and talk about all the things you see in nature, the summer flowers, the bright sunshine. Have you received any special presents, or had special moments where someone has done something really nice or kind for you? Include all those on your banner.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

Activity 2: Sheep craft.

You will need: toilet roll inserts, white paper and card, PVA glue (or glue sticks), scissors, markers, cereal or pizza box (optional)

There are two versions of this craft: A sheep mask and/or a sheep model

For both you will need lots of curly pieces of paper. Cut short strips of white paper (approximately 1cm X 6cm) and use a scissors to curl the paper (see activity video for how to do this)

For the sheep mask: print out the template which is below these instructions) onto paper and glue to a cereal box (or print directly onto white card) and cut around the mask. Cut out the holes for the eyes (you may need to use a craft knife – adults only!) Decorate your mask with markers and curly pieces of paper. Use a hole punch to put holes at the side of the mask and attach string or elastic.

For the sheep model: Take your toilet roll insert and a small piece of white card. To make the sheep's face, draw around the toilet roll and add ears and other features you would like. Cut the face out. Attach it to the roll at one end (have the roll resting on the side) and cover the roll with white curly paper.

Did you know that sheep follow their shepherd? God is like our shepherd; he guides and helps us to follow the right way to live. Have you ever watched sheep out in the fields? Maybe the next time you are out for a walk somewhere and you see sheep you might stop and watch them for a while.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

Activity 3: Praise shout

You will need: paper and pens/pencils (optional)

Write a praise shout and then practise it together. You might like to look at Psalm 100 for inspiration.

It might be something like: Thank you God for loving us. Or: Thank you God that you are good. Or: You fill us with joy and we praise you.

I wonder what words of praise you will come up with. Now practise shouting out your praise shouts to God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Psalm 100:1-2

Activity 4: Birthday cake

Bake and decorate a cake or some cupcakes to share together to celebrate the 12th birthday of The Lighthouse. Sing Happy Birthday to us before eating the cake.

As you bake talk about how birthdays are special. What do they mean to you? Do you have any special things you do to celebrate your birthday? What other things do you celebrate? Thank God for all these opportunities to celebrate.

For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation. Psalm 100:5

Activity 5: Food preparation

Together prepare some food for a special celebratory meal or some party style food to share together to celebrate the 12th birthday of The Lighthouse.

Talk about what you like to do and eat at parties. How many Bible stories can you think of that are about or mention parties or sitting down to eat food together?

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

Activity 6: Spinning tops

You will need: the spinning top kits from your pack and markers or colouring pencil.

Colour the card and assemble the spinning top by putting the card onto the plastic spinner. Then have fun spinning it and watching what happens to your pattern.

Talk together about all the joyful things that have happened over this past year. Thank God for them all.

Shout with joy to the Lord, O earth! Psalm 100:1