



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

November 20-21, 2021

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Stuffed – Week 3 (Breaksgiving & Pajamas)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

**Be STUFFED with thanksgiving
for what Jesus has done!**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

**Galatians 5:22-23
Colossians 2:6-7
1 Thessalonians 5:18**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Higher/Lower: Stupid Human Tricks"

A record holding stupid human trick is shown on the screen with a corresponding number. Students respond to the question by deciding if the correct answer is higher or lower than the number given: sit on the ground if they think the answer is lower, stand on a chair if they think the answer is higher. There are 12 rounds.

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

How do you spend Thanksgiving and who do you celebrate it with? Do you have any special traditions for Thanksgiving? If so, what are they?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING

LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"Stuffed" Week 3 – Stuffed with Thanksgiving **November 20-21, 2021**

Well, happy early Thanksgiving everyone! I especially want to wish you a Happy "Breaksgiving" as well. It's going to be a great time. We've already got started on the right foot because we're all here at church in our comfy pajamas!

We are continuing our series called STUFFED and we are focusing on a passage of Scripture from the New Testament in the book of Galatians. This passage is commonly known as "The Fruit of the Spirit." As we've talked about the last two weeks, the writer, Paul, is not talking about literal fruit, but instead, he is referring to the fruit of our life (or the actions and behavior of our life).

Let's look at this verse together again...Galatians 5:22-23: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

In this season of Thanksgiving, the focus is obviously on being thankful. It's always a good thing to think about what we are thankful for and how we need to live a life of gratitude or thanksgiving. Have you ever had a situation happen where telling someone "thank you" simply wasn't enough? You were MORE than thankful or MORE than joyful because of what they did for you.

(Teacher's Note: Tell a story where you were truly thankful for someone because of a godly action or deed)

I believe the first fruit listed in this verse, joy, can go hand-in-hand very closely with the word "thankful." A thankful person is usually a joyful person: they are content, thankful for what they have and don't necessarily feel that they need more. Joy doesn't mean happiness. In fact, in the original Greek language, the word "joy" here translates to mean "rejoicing because of God's grace."

In other words, if we are STUFFED with joy, we are STUFFED with a deep thankfulness for God; how much He loves us and what He has done for us through the life of Jesus. In fact, that's what our THP (or Take Home Point) focuses on today!

Be STUFFED with thanksgiving for what Jesus has done!

THE MESSAGE

Since that's our THP for today, then we really need to look at this question: what did Jesus do that should make us so thankful? We can take it a step further and ask that same question this way: what did Jesus do that should cause us to joyfully/thankfully devote our entire life to him?

I love the way that Colossians 2:6-7, a verse from the New Testament says it. Check this out: *"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."*

For those of us who are Christians, we all have a story of how God has changed our life. I would like to briefly share some of my own personal story with you.

(Leaders Note: In 3-5 minutes, briefly share your journey in becoming a Christian.)

One encounter with Jesus can change you forever. Now, that doesn't mean that Jesus is like a magic trick where we just snap our fingers and say, "I'm a Christian now. Everything in life is easy." In fact, it's going to be difficult more times than not. There will be tough challenges. Many times, the right thing and the hardest thing are the same. However, it's worth it!

Being **STUFFED** with thanksgiving doesn't mean we're going to be happy all the time. It will be God's joy in us despite whatever happens in life. A joyful person is a thankful person; a thankful person is a joyful person. In fact, you probably know someone like that; someone who seems to be content no matter how much or how little they have. It doesn't matter if they've had a good day or a bad day...they still live a life of thanksgiving and joy to God because they know what He has done for them!

In the New Testament, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says this: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* Students, it is God's will for us to live a life of thanksgiving. Out of all the things He could ask us to do, this is what His will is for our life...GIVE THANKS! Give thanks to God for what He has done FOR you and IN you!

The most important message of Christianity is what Jesus Christ did for us. It's good news...in fact, it's the BEST news! The word "gospel" in the Bible literally means "good news" and here's the gospel of Jesus Christ. God accepted us just the way we are...even though we are imperfect people. Instead of punishing us or killing us simply because we have sinned or couldn't be like Him, He showed us grace. Since He loved us, He sent Jesus Christ to live a perfect life, a life we couldn't live. Then, Jesus Christ offered himself **AS A SACRIFICE** so that he could take the punishment we deserved. Now when God looks at us, He doesn't see imperfect, sinful, and unthankful people...HE SEES WHAT JESUS HAS DONE!

THE MESSAGE

The message of Christianity isn't just to obey God and be a good person so God will like me and accept me. It isn't "Obey God...then I'll be accepted." It's the opposite. The Gospel is "I'm accepted...therefore I obey." I obey God because I am so thankful for what He has done for me and the joy that He brings to my life.

A life transformed by God is a life STUFFED with thanksgiving. When you recognize that Jesus died for you and loves you despite your weaknesses, it can change your life forever.

(Teacher's Note: Move into Gospel presentation. Finish the last paragraph of the script after you're finished with that moment.)

I want us to spend some time in our group discussions thinking about some basic, but pretty important questions: what am I thankful to God for? How does God bring joy to my life? Who is someone who has taught me about God that I am thankful for? What do I have to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving season? As your group discusses that, I want you to remember to be thankful, be joyful, and remember what Jesus has done for you. Let's pray!

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

What was the THP today and why was it important during the message?

Today, _____ shared a part of his/her story with us about how he/she became a Christian and how thankful he/she is that God is a part of his/her life. What did you learn from his/her story?

There's an awesome passage from the Bible about being STUFFED with thanksgiving! It comes from the New Testament in Colossians 2:6-7. Can someone read that for us?

"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

What do you think these verses mean when they talk about "roots growing down into Jesus"?

Who is one person in your life that has taught you about God? Why are you thankful for that person?

What is one thing you are thankful to God for right now? Why?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Try to think of a specific example.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Leaders Note: Please take your time eating breakfast together and discussing with your group. Allow this to be an extended time of hanging out with and getting to know your students!

Also...congratulate any students in your group who made a first-time commitment to Christ today. Encourage and remind them that this group can serve as an awesome support system in their life!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)
- Playlister material

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- BREAKFAST FOOD!**
- Stupid Video of the Week
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister