

Thanksgiving United Thank Offering Lesson & Craft

Supplies Needed:

1. Enough Blue Boxes for everyone to have one.
2. Turkey templates – print on cardstock for a more sturdy presentation
 - a. You can do a Google image search for crafts: turkey feathers and head or
 - b. Here is a link to one that is already colored in (see example photo): <http://origami-n-stuff4kids.blogspot.com/2010/11/thanksgiving-giving-thanks-paper-bag.html>
 - c. Here is a link to one that the children can color:
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/237705686557888771/>
3. Tape, glue sticks, and scissors (unless you pre-cut the pieces)
4. Grant stories to share – www.unitedthankoffering.org under the stories tab or from our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UnitedThankOffering or from one of the UTO Grant lists/brochures.

Background: Many families have the tradition that when they gather for their Thanksgiving meal, each person says something they are thankful for from the past year. Since the United Thank Offering asks people to do this every day and at all times, this is a great opportunity to have the Blue Box available for thank offerings. We wanted to offer a craft for Sunday School/Faith Formation that would make the Blue Box into a turkey and give teachers, parents and students a way to talk about gratitude, giving and UTO.

Scripture for Thanksgiving Day:

Joel 2:21-27

Psalm 126

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Matthew 6:25-33

But we recommend using:

II Corinthians 9:11-12

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Lesson:

Read the scripture verse that you've chosen for the lesson. Discuss with the students what the lesson means. If using the recommended lessons some questions might be:

- What are some of the nice things you've done for someone?
- How do you feel when you do something nice for someone else?
 - Does it make you want to do more nice things or less?
 - How do you think the other person feels when you do something nice for them?
- When someone thanks you for being helpful, do you want to do more?
- What are some nice things you could do for others?

Discussion Points:

Some of these points might be helpful or not depending on the age range in your class...

- God gives us the gift of grace freely. We respond, or say thank you to the gift of grace by doing good each and every day.
- The United Thank Offering is a ministry for every Episcopalian. For over 125 years, Episcopalians have taken these little Blue Boxes home from church and put money or a note of thanksgiving into it each time something good has happened in their day. Each year the boxes are collected and all of the money in the boxes go to help people all over the world.
 - This would be a great time to share a grant story.

Activity:

Today we are going to turn our Blue Boxes into turkeys for Thanksgiving! Many people talk about what they are thankful for on Thanksgiving so you can pass around your turkey Blue Box as people share.

1. Have the children color and cut out their turkey pieces.
2. Glue or tape the pieces onto the Blue Box
3. Have a grant story for each child – it can be as simple as a grant brochure cut up so each child can have a photo and description or you can pull stories from the UTO blog and make panels for the box. (as shown in the photos) Add these to the bottom of the box
4. Give each child a coin, ask them to say what they are thankful for, and drop it in their new turkey Blue Box.
5. Close by saying how thankful you are for them. Say each child's name as you put a coin in your Blue Box.



Template for the grant story:



"We received this car with happiness & special vote of thanks to UTO for their generous financial contribution towards the holistic ministry in the Diocese. After 3 years without means of transport, we thank God because we have the means of transport now to facilitate the health and Education programmes. Again thank you."
Bishop Wilson Kamani, Diocese of Ibba, South Sudan"