

# Thankfulness

- > **Prayers** “O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants...”  
...review the memorising of this prayer. > use fill-in the blanks on next page.
- > **Theme** *Thankfulness* – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells us that we should be thankful to God for having showered His bounties on us, having caused our hearts to overflow with His love and for having given us a share of His knowledge.  
We must be thankful to God in times of ease and in times of difficulty. For even difficulties can be blessings from God – and if we strive to overcome them, they will lead to our growth and happiness. **Thankfulness brings peace to our souls.** Thanksgiving to God increases our capacity to receive His mercy and attracts greater and greater shares of His bounty. (see p41 of ‘Teaching Children’s Classes Grade 2’ book, for more explanations)
- > **Quote** – **“Be thou happy and well pleased and arise to offer thanks to God, in order that thanksgiving may conduce to the increase of bounty.”** – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá
- > **Song** – If you’re happy and you know it, clap your hands...
- > **Story** – p.41 in Ruhi Book 3a: *About King Mahmud and his devoted servant Ayáz, and the melon, received thankfully, even though it was bitter.*
- > **Drama** – After the usual warm up exercises in our imaginary squares...
  - > communicate using only their bodies (no voices)

SAY:	USING:		
“Yes”	head	“Come here!”	finger
“I don’t understand”	eyes	“I’m running”	arms
“I hear something”	ear	I bump into a wall”	shoulder
“I’m surprised”	jaw	“I’m tired”	whole body
“I smell fresh bread”	nose	“I’m looking for someone”	whole body

  - > Then children stand in line behind each other, hands on the shoulder of child in front, eyes closed, except last in row who’s the ‘driver’ – steering the ‘bus’ by gently pushing the right/left shoulder (movement is passed along the line) or gently pulling on both to stop.
  - > Move on to improvising/enacting a situation related to today’s theme ‘thankfulness’: Story setting of a brother (Ben) who is looking after his little sister (Amy) and even though he is very responsible, he ‘looses’ her... (p42/44)
- > **Craft/art** Make a ‘thankfulness’ cornucopia - <http://www.flipflopsandapplesauce.com/2008/11/paper-cornucopia-of-thanks.html>  
or if you have more time - make a wreath of giving thanks: <http://www.chicaandjo.com/2009/11/09/thanksgiving-wreath/>  
(see pictures of them next page)
- > clean up
- > **Closing Prayers:** let children say prayers they know off by heart

## Memorisation Puzzle/Fill-in the blanks

**O my God! O \_\_\_\_\_!**

Unite the \_\_\_\_\_ of Thy servants, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to them Thy \_\_\_\_\_ purpose. May  
they \_\_\_\_\_ Thy \_\_\_\_\_ and  
abide in Thy \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, O God, in their \_\_\_\_\_,  
and grant them \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Thee.

O God! \_\_\_\_\_ not to themselves,  
but \_\_\_\_\_ their steps by the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Thy knowledge, and \_\_\_\_\_ by  
Thy love. Verily, Thou art their \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ Lord.

Bahá'u'lláh

WORDS TO USE:

hearts, follow, and reveal, law, strength, my God, guide, their,  
endeavour, great, commandments, cheer their hearts,  
Help them, serve, leave them, light, Helper

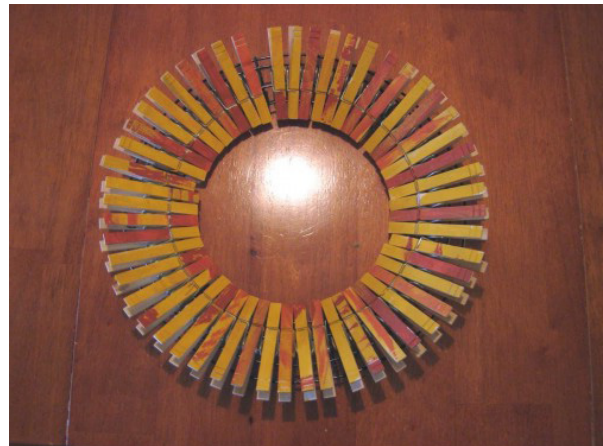
## Craft ideas on 'thankfulness'



### Materials:

8 inch square sheet of paper  
double-sided tape  
contrasting color of paper for decorative flower  
scissors  
popsicle sticks  
stickers, or decorative punch

<http://www.flipflopsandapplesauce.com/2008/11/paper-conucopia-of-thanks.html>



### Materials

wire wreath frame  
bag of clothespins (53 for a 12 inch frame)  
acrylic paints and some sponge brushes  
wooden heart/shape  
ribbon for hanging



<http://www.chicaandjo.com/2009/11/09/thanksgiving-wreath/>