**Name of Class**

**Now Thank We All Our God– CW 610:1,2**

**PREPARATION**

**Objective**

The student will:

1. Understand that we should thank God during good times and during times of hardship.
2. Explore different ways to thank God.
3. Sing, perform, and associate the tune with the text.

**Materials Needed**

1. *Christian Worship* or a copy of the text of the hymn
2. *Christian Worship Handbook* (optional)
3. Bibles
4. NPH Hymnsoft (optional)
5. Pictures of Martin Rinkart
6. A map of Europe

**Words to Know**

wondrous

perplexed

bounteous

**Biblical Connections**

Genesis 8:15-20 (Noah)

Exodus 15:1-6 (Moses and Miriam)

Luke 2:15-20 (The Shepherds)

Luke 19:5-8 (Zacchaeus)

Luke 17:11-17 (man with leprosy)

Psalm 111:2-4 (the psalmist)

Job 1 (Job’s suffering)

**Key Question**

**In what situations in life can we show our thanks?**

*Using our hearts, hands, and voices, we can thank God during good times and times of hardship.*

**LESSON**

**Introduction**

Name some very special events when someone might be especially thankful.  Let’s do a Think/Pair/Share.  Think about a time that you were especially thankful for a special event or gift.  Pair up with someone and tell that person about your experience.  Think about times in people's lives that are especially difficult.  Discuss with a partner. Can we be thankful in those situations as well? **In what situations in life can we show our thanks?**

**Background Information**

* The text was written by Martin Rinkart in 1630, during the time of the Thirty Years War in Central Europe.  Show map.
* During this time Rinkart’s town was invaded on three different occasions.  In addition to that, the plague killed some eight thousand people in his town.  In the middle of all this suffering, Rinkart found a way to thank God.
* This hymn is sometimes referred to as the “*Te Deum* of Germany” because it has been sung at many occasions of national celebration.  This hymn is in the Thanksgiving section of the hymnal and is a popular hymn to sing at Thanksgiving services and special celebratory events like church or school anniversaries.

**Stanza 1**

**Words to Know**

Wondrous – amazing; incredible

Perplexed – confused; puzzled

1. **Read the following passages and tell how the person in the passage responded to a special blessing from God. (see handout)**
2. **What are the three ways that Rinkart encourages us to thank God?  What are examples of ways that we can do each of those?**

*With hearts, hands, and voices; answers will vary*

1. **In the space below, draw a picture of someone responding to blessings from God, and include a caption describing what is happening.**

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1. **Based on the above Bible stories, when in our life is it easy to thank God?**

*When there is reason for celebration and happiness*

1. **Demonstration:  Showing Our Thankfulness**

*Pair up to create a short skit with someone showing an act of kindness and someone showing thankfulness with either thoughts, words, or actions, or any combination.  If you choose thoughts, you will have to “think out loud.”*

**Stanza 2**

**Words to Know**

Bounteous - generous

1. **(This stanza refers to things that we want to ask God)  List the five things for which we’re asking of God in this stanza.**

*Be near us; cheer us; keep us in your grace; guide us when we’re perplexed; free us from all ills*

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1. **Read Job 1:13-19.  List the terrible things that happened to Job.**

*His animals were attacked and taken away; his sheep and servants were burned up by fire; his camels were stolen; his sons and daughters were all killed.*

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1. **Now read Job 1:21.  How did Job respond to these terrible things that happened to him?**

*“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”*

1. **In the middle of trouble, Job was able to praise God.  If you read Job 19:23-27, we see why Job was able to praise God, even during hardship.  Which phrase of Stanza 2 is related to what Job said in Job 19:23-27?**

*“and free us from all ills in this world and the next.”*

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1. **Based on Job’s life, when in our life is it somewhat difficult to thank God?**

*In times of hardships and troubles*

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1. **With the given situations, how can you thank God:**
2. *You get a bad grade on your test.*
3. *Your parents get a divorce.*
4. *Someone you love gets sick and might die soon.*

**Key Question**

**In what situations in life can we show our thanks?**

**Key Summary**

Using our hearts, hands, and voices, we can thank God during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (good) times and times of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (hardship).

**Prayer**

We thank you, our great God, for all of the blessings you give us each day. Help us to give you our thanks and praise at all times, especially when we are going through tough times.We thank you especially for giving us your Son, Jesus to be our Savior; in his name we pray. Amen.

**Sing the Hymn!**

Accompaniment and voices can be found on the *CD*.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Memory**

Memorize stanzas 1,2

**Writing Activity**

*Writing a Prayer:* Write a prayer thanking God for something.  Be sure to tell what it is that you are thanking God for, why you are thankful, and how you want to respond to that blessing.

*Write and React:* Using a type of social media, create a discussion thread listing the things for which you are thankful.  Respond to two other comments made by classmates, relating to their situation or encouraging them in their response of thankfulness.

**Visual Activity**

*Sticky Notes of Thanks:* Provide the students with a variety of sticky notes. Throughout the week, let the students randomly write on a note, things that they are thankful for. Have a designated spot for the notes to be posted. By the end of the week, they can see all the blessings that they are thankful for.

**Speaking/Listening/Performing**

*Rhythm Instruments:* Use rhythm instruments to improvise an accompaniment to “Now Thank We All Our God.”

**Cooperative Learning**

*Skits:* Expand on #5 from the lesson and have the students work in larger groups (4-5) students to show how someone could be thankful when something bad happens. Have them do their skits for other groups.

**Hymnal Connection**

**Performance Option - tentative**