

Scope + Sequence: The Ripple Effect
ThinkGive® Elementary Program (Grades 3-5)

Students explore kindness and discover how small, meaningful actions can create a ripple effect, positively impacting themselves, their peers, and beyond. The program begins with a focus on their immediate class community and gradually expands to include the wider school and local community, empowering students to make a broader difference.

Lesson name	Lesson Summary	Students Will Examine	Take Action "Before our next ThinkGive session on [give date]..."	SEL Core Competencies
Introduction	Students are introduced to the ThinkGive Project and the fundamental importance of kindness. They explore how to give non-tangible gifts by doing an activity around sharing compliments, then discuss the ripple effect and how kindness can spread throughout their communities.	- What constitutes a "gift." - What is the ripple effect? - What is the powerful potential of positive actions?	<i>Try to notice kindness in our class/group and in your communities—those that involve you and those that don't.</i>	Relationship skills: Relationship-building Self-management: Goal setting Social awareness: Empathy
Give to Yourself	Students explore the importance of self-care and self-compassion, focusing on their physical and emotional well-being. They discuss how feeling good in their bodies can positively impact their emotions and overall mindset. Students identify practical ways to care for their bodies, recognizing that self-care is essential for personal growth and the ability to support others.	- Ways to care for their physical self. - How caring for their physical self (which impacts their emotional self) prepares them to give to others. - How physical self-care can start a ripple within themselves.	<i>Take action in a new way to care for your body and/or your emotions. Use an idea from your My Self-Care Plan or try something else.</i>	Self-awareness: Authenticity Self-management: Self-regulation Self-management: Personal agency
Give to a Member of Your Family	Students reflect on the uniqueness of their families and consider how diversity between and within families impacts themselves, others, and their communities. Guide them in understanding that taking family members for granted is normal, and it's important to try to appreciate and connect with family. These two topics will help them identify who in their family to give to—and help them give authentically.	- Families are diverse and unique; their differences shape our experiences, teach us valuable lessons, and enrich our lives. - How their family's uniqueness influences who they are and their relationships with others. - What are ways to show appreciation for family members, fostering gratitude instead of taking them for granted?	<i>Show appreciation to at least one family member. There are many ways to show kindness to our families. It is helpful to recognize the unique qualities our families bring and the impact this uniqueness has on the world.</i>	Relationship skills: Relationship-building Social awareness: Interconnectedness Social awareness: Gratitude
Give to a Friend	In this lesson, students explore the key qualities that make friendships strong. They examine how diversity and differences among friends can offer valuable perspectives and enrich relationships. The lesson also incorporates a book, <i>The Other Side</i> or <i>The Gift of Nothing</i> , to help students reflect on the nature of friendship and consider whether people or material things bring lasting happiness.	- Key qualities that make friendships meaningful. - How can differences strengthen and enrich a friendship? - What are the ways that friends give and receive support?	<i>Take action to positively impact a friend. Watch for small moments where you can make a difference and be a "daymaker," then watch how your action creates ripples throughout your community!</i>	Relationship skills: Relationship-building Social awareness: Empathy Social awareness: Perspective-taking

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Give Spontaneously	This lesson encourages students to embrace spontaneity by fostering awareness of their surroundings and the opportunities for kind actions. Through the video "Kindness Boomerang Hits the Rails in NYC," students observe how small, spontaneous actions can spark a ripple effect, inspiring others and spreading positivity. The lesson emphasizes the importance of bravery as part of the ThinkGive Three, encouraging students to step into their courage zones and recognize how their choices can have a meaningful impact.	- What does it mean to be spontaneous? - It is important to notice opportunities to take action. - How can a spontaneous action start a ripple effect?	<i>Pay attention to the people in our class, group, and other communities you are part of. Stay open to moments where kindness is needed, and take action when you see an opportunity to help or brighten someone's day.</i>	Self-awareness: Confidence Self-management: Risk-taking Social awareness: Empathy
Give to Someone Older or Younger than You	In this lesson, students engage in a scenario activity that challenges them to respond positively and inclusively in various situations. They reflect on the meaning of kindness and develop a deeper understanding of how their actions affect others. The discussion encourages awareness of individuals in their communities who may be taken for granted. Finally, students are challenged to take brave, positive actions that can make a meaningful impact, especially toward those older or younger than themselves.	- What is kindness? - How does including people of different ages strengthen their communities? - Their actions impact how others perceive them and how they perceive themselves.	<i>Challenge yourself to step into your courage zone and create ripples of kindness by taking action to positively impact someone older or younger than you, whether in your immediate community or beyond.</i>	Relationship skills: Relationship-building Self-management: Risk-taking Social awareness: Empathy
Give to Your Community	Students explore the people who make up their communities, the roles they play, and how every member contributes to the community's strength. They reflect on ways they can give back and support their communities. The discussion highlights how commonalities and differences contribute to making communities more inclusive and resilient.	- The people who make up their communities and the roles they play. - What do these individuals contribute to their communities? - How can they help strengthen their communities?	<i>Take action to make a positive impact in one of your communities. Your kindness can support a person, group, or place by doing something as simple as picking up trash at a park, making a thank-you card for your bus driver, or cleaning up equipment for your team.</i>	Relationship skills: Interdependence Self-awareness: Accurate self-perception Social awareness: Interconnectedness

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Share with Someone	Students explore the difference between sharing and giving. While many may initially associate sharing with physical or tangible items, this lesson encourages a deeper discussion around sharing intangible things, such as time, attention, and ideas. These can be both powerful and challenging. The ThinkGive Three focus for this lesson is True; guide students to share in authentic and genuine ways.	- The difference between giving and sharing. - What are ways to share themselves (intangible gifts)? - Why can it be hard to share something personal?	<i>Share a part of yourself—your time, kindness, compassion, or ideas—with a family member, friend, peer, or acquaintance. When you share, you invite someone to experience something with you, learn from you, or try something new. In doing so, you create a connection with that person.</i>	Relationship skills: Relationship-building Self-awareness: Accurate self-perception Self-management: Personal agency
Give to Someone You Admire	Students explore what it means to admire someone, focusing on the difference between character traits (like kindness or honesty) and skills (like drawing or playing soccer). They consider how traits and skills can influence each other and shape the way someone makes a positive impact. By the end of the lesson, students will have identified a few people they admire. For their action, they then choose one person and express their appreciation through a meaningful act of kindness.	- Who they admire in their communities and why. - The difference between character traits and skills. - A trait or skill they want to develop in themselves.	<i>Take a brave action to show someone you admire how much you value them.</i>	Relationship skills: Relationship-building Social awareness: Gratitude Self-awareness: Authenticity
Give to the Environment	Caring for the environment can feel overwhelming because it's such a big issue. This lesson helps students break down a large environmental problem into smaller, manageable actions. By taking small, meaningful steps, students can build lasting habits and create ripple effects that inspire others to care, too.	- What they appreciate about the environment. - How small actions can make a meaningful difference. - A strategy for taking action by breaking down a big environmental problem into manageable steps.	<i>Take action to care for the environment. Even though our efforts might seem like small ripples, they have the power to spread far and wide.</i>	Responsible decision-making: Critical thinking Self-management: Goal setting Self-management: Personal agency

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Give Your Gratitude	In this lesson, students explore the concept of gratitude, including its meaning, effects on themselves and others, and the importance of being aware in order to genuinely feel grateful. They learn that taking people or things for granted is the opposite of gratitude. Finally, the Gratitude Hearts activity illustrates how their expressions of appreciation can create a ripple effect throughout their community.	- How noticing what's around us connects to practicing gratitude. - Why it's important both to feel gratitude and to express it. - Showing gratitude is the opposite of taking people or things for granted.	<i>In the video, the singer says there are a million things to be grateful for. Take action to show your gratitude for one person or thing in our community.</i>	Social awareness: Gratitude Self-awareness: Authenticity
Wrap-Up	In this final lesson, students celebrate the impact of their actions—both individually and as a group. They reflect on the moments they are most proud of, especially those that required courage. Together, they explore the “So What?”—why ThinkGive matters—and the “Now What?”—how they can carry their learning forward to continue making a positive difference.	- Why ThinkGive matters and what they've learned about the power of kindness, inclusion, and positive action. - The big ideas they want to carry forward. - How can they share their learning and continue spreading kindness in their communities?	<i>Take a moment to appreciate all the true, small, and brave actions you've taken during ThinkGive. Every action—no matter how small—has the power to create a ripple of positivity. Let's keep the momentum going and continue to make a difference, one action at a time!</i>	Self-awareness: Accurate self-perception Self-awareness: Confidence Self-management: Persistence