



Thanksgiving Activity Packet | 2012

HOW TO USE THIS PACKET

The ideas listed below are intended for you to use and adapt to help your children learn the virtue of gratitude. Please note that we included multiple ideas to provide you with a selection. Use the icons provided to help you decide, at-a-glance, which are best for your family. Have fun!



The microwave icon indicates a busy day. We all have moments that we want to be intentional, but it is going to have to be done quickly and without much planning.



The crockpot icon will take you through an activity that may be a little more time or preparation, but the reward will be something well worth the effort.

BEGIN WITH THE BASICS

Gratitude Definition:

Appreciating God's goodness in all of life and saying so. Being thankful and saying so.

Book Suggestions:

- Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving by Eric Metaxas
- My Thanksgiving Prayer by Crystal Bowman
- What is Thanksgiving? By Amy Wummer
- The Bernstein Bears Give Thanks by Jan and Steve Berenstain

Hymn Suggestions:

Shout to the LORD

Father I Adore You

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

ACTIVITIES

Memorize Scripture




Option 1) Write out one of the verses below and post it somewhere visible. Pick a time of day to recite as a family. Only supplies needed: Construction paper and markers.


- “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1
- “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18



Option 2) Memorize the Psalm 100 by memorizing a verse a week as a family. Pick a time of day to recite as a family. Only supplies needed: Print the below image and post somewhere visible.


Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the 

Worship the LORD with  ;
come before him with joyful songs.


Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his people,

the  of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness  through all generations.



Sheep Craft

Tying to Psalm 100, create this cute sheep! Cut 10-12 skinny strips of white paper and then have your child curl the paper around the marker. Glue the white curls onto a sheet of green construction paper (represents the pasture). Free-hand cut sheep head out, draw on some eyes and add little black feet. Write, or have your child write, Psalm 100 on the paper. Only supplies needed: white, green and black construction paper, markers, and glue.



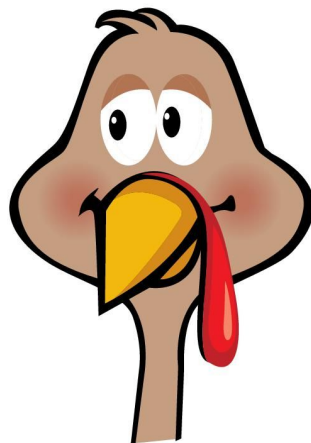
GRATITUDE ROLLS:

On a small piece of paper, have each person write or draw a picture of something they are thankful for. Place each paper on a wedge of crescent dough and LOOSELY roll them up. Bake according to package directions and serve with dinner. Enjoy sharing what each one says. Only supplies needed: crescent rolls, paper and pen.



THANKFUL TURKEY

Trace your kids hand, or have them trace their own hand, on a sturdy piece of paper. On each finger, write something that can be thankful for this year. Print the below Turkey head and glue into place. Only supplies needed: construction paper, markers, turkey head below.





THANKFUL TABLECLOTH

Purchase a paper tablecloth (or fabric large enough to cover your table) and let your kid(s) go wild with markers or crayons! They can write or draw things and people they are thankful for this year. Provide bible verses for them to copy onto the tablecloth. For older kids, have them look up verses and write them out. Use this tablecloth for a few meals or reserve for Thanksgiving Day for the infamous “kids table”. Only supplies needed: paper table cloth or fabric, markers or fabric markers.



COUNTDOWN WITH THANKFULNESS

Print and cut into strips the items below (for sturdier strips, print on cardstock). Write a number on each one correlating to the number of days left until Thanksgiving. Only supplies needed: countdown printout, stapler or tape, scissors, small mason jar or container to hold strips.

We are thankful for our Grandparents
(FaceTime, make a card, or send them an email)

We are thankful for our Missionaries
(Pray for someone serving in missions)

We are thankful for our Teachers
(Make a thank you card and take to a teacher)

We are thankful for our fire fighters, policemen, doctors, etc.
(Stop by the fire station/police station to simply say thank you!)

We are thankful for our toys.
(Clean out your toys and donate them).

We are thankful for Dad.
(Do something nice for Dad).

We are thankful for Mom
(Do something nice for Mom).

We are thankful for our Clothes.
(Clean out our clothes and donate them)

We are thankful for our Sister (s).
(Write a Thankful note, draw a picture or find a way to serve your sister(s)).

We are thankful for our Brother(s).
(Write a Thankful note, draw a picture or find a way to serve your brother(s)).

We are thankful for our friends.

(Write a note, send an email, bake a special treat for a friend).

We are thankful for our family.

(Have a family game night. Youngest child picks the game).

We are thankful for our food.

(Prepare a meal or treat for someone in your neighborhood).

We are thankful for our Eyes.

(Take a walk and point all the things you are thankful to see!)

We are thankful for our church.

(Pray for your pastor, youth leader, and/or teacher today).

We are thankful for books.

(Read out loud a Thanksgiving Book today)

We are thankful for our neighbors.

(Drop off a small potted plant with a "Thankful for you" note).

We are thankful we can pray to God who hears our prayers.

(Pick a time of day that you can pray out loud as a family).

We are thankful for the earth.

(Go on a walk with a trash bag and pick up trash you see as you walk).

We are Thankful we can write.

(Write three things you are thankful for or write out one of the gratitude verses).

We are thankful helpers.

(Think of a way to secretly help someone by tomorrow).

We are thankful for our classmates.

(Think of one way you can bless a classmate next time you're at school, and then do it!)

We are thankful for shoes.

(Donate a pair of shoes (<http://donateyouoldshoes.org/>))

We are thankful for our pet.

(Take them on a walk, clean their cage, play with them).

We are thankful for our military.

(Take time to pray for our men and women in the armed forces. Check out www.amillionthanks.org and send a letter to a soldier).

We are thankful to share our gratitude.
(Go around the table and share what you are thankful for this year).

We are thankful for our car.
(While in the car, share where your car takes you that you are thankful for this year).

We are thankful for our family.
(Take turns expressing the things about your family that you are thankful for this year).



THUMBPRINT TURKEY

Using index cards (or cardstock cut into rectangles), have your kids make a thumbprint turkey and then write a note to someone they are thankful for this year. Or write out scripture, conversation starters and use as place cards at Thanksgiving or a meal this month. Only supplies needed: Orange, brown and yellow inkpad or paint, black marker, index cards or cardstock.



SHARING MY GRATITUDE



Option 1) Simply leave a sticky note pad and pen out where every family member can write or draw things they are thankful for this year. (The first few days you may have to model how to recognize things and jot them down). Have everyone stick them to the fridge, a door, or a window and watch it fill up fast. Discuss the new additions from time to time. Only supplies needed: Pen, pencil or marker and sticky notes.



Option 2) Make a Thankful Tree by using brown construction paper and free-hand cutting out a tree trunk and branches. Tape the tree trunk and branches to a window or door. Then using colorful construction paper, free-hand cut out leaves. Place the pre-cut leaves and markers in a jar near the Thankful Tree. Every day write things you are thankful for this year on a leaf and tape to the tree. By the end of the month you'll have yourself a lovely Thankful Tree!

ABC GRATITUDE



Option 1) While you are in the car, or around the dinner table, take turns playing a game of gratitude by using the alphabet. The first player starts with the letter A, and makes a statement like, "I am thankful for apples that are in our apple pie dessert." The next person uses B and may say, "I am thankful for my baby brother." Continue around the table with each person using the next letter. Can you get through the entire alphabet?



Options 2) Print and cut out the alphabet cards below. Write or draw something you are thankful for that starts with each letter.

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

k

l

m

n

o

p

q

r

s

t

u

v

w

x

y

Z