

**BUILDING
BLOCKS**

a ministry for parents
of young children

THANKSGIVING PACKET

FUN, CREATIVE AND CHRIST-CENTERED IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE
YOUR CHILD TO BE THANKFUL THIS SEASON.



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.

Scripture Quotes About Thankfulness

(Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”, “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”, “London Bridge”, or “The Wheels on the Bus”)

- **Psalm 107:1 (NIV)** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
- **Psalm 145:7 (NIV)** They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- **1 Chronicles 16:34 ESV** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!
- **Colossians 3:17 ESV** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- **1 Timothy 4:4 ESV** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.
- **Philippians 4:6 ESV** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- **Psalm 147:7 ESV** Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!
- **Psalm 100:4 ESV** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- **Psalm 95:2 ESV** Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- **1 Corinthians 15:56-57 ESV** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Order this Thanksgiving Book:

The Pumpkin Patch Parable by Liz Curtis Higgs

Thanksgiving Game – “Alphabet Thanks”

(Ages 4-7...but could be adapted)

Make your young guests feel special when Thanksgiving dinner is served atop a custom-made tablecloth they designed. Break out the color crayons, or markers, and allow each child to draw their own artwork depicting a thankful day. Later, play a game of "Alphabet Thanks," where children draw from a bowl of letters, and then tell God thanks for something that begins with the letter they picked.

Songs

Thank the Lord *To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."*

Thank thank thank the Lord
For the things he gives
he takes sins away
pray to him everyday
live a life he wants you to live

Thanksgiving Psalm *To the tune of "Joy to the World"*

En-ter His gates with thanks-giv-ing;
Come in His courts with praise.
Be thank-ful unto Him, And bless His name
Because the Lord is good,
Because the Lord is good.
Verses fo-ur and fi-ive, Psalm One Hun-dred.

God Made the Sun

God made the sun *(put arms over head in circle)*
God made the trees *(hold arms up at shoulders with fingers spread like trees)*
God made the mountains *(hands at chest making a triangle like a mountain)*
and God made me! *(give self a hug)*
Thank you for the sun *(repeat hand signals for all below lines)*
Thank you for the trees
Thank you for the mountains
and Thank you for me!

Food Ideas:

Blessing Mix

Each ingredient in this snack mix symbolizes something associated with Thanksgiving.

- 2 cups Bugles brand corn snacks - shaped as a cornucopia, a horn of plenty.
- 2 cups pretzels - represent arms folded in thanks and prayer.
- 1 cup candy corn - during the first winter, the Pilgrims were each allotted only 5 kernels of corn per day because food was so scarce.
- 1 cup dried or candy fruits - Thanksgiving is the celebration of the harvest.
- 1 cup peanuts or sunflower seeds - seeds represent the potential of a bounteous harvest for the next season if they are planted and well tended.

In a large bowl mix all ingredients together. Other ingredients such as dry cereals, candies, or marshmallows can also be added. Make this mix as a family and eat while discussing each ingredient and how it relates to Thanksgiving.

Popcorn Praises

Ingredients/Item(s) needed:

- Unpopped popcorn
- Popcorn popper

Directions:

1. Show the children the unpopped popcorn and tell them that the kernels are like children who haven't found Jesus. Without the warmth of God's love they haven't burst to life.
2. Pop the popcorn.
3. When God's love warms our hearts we burst with happiness, and praises to Jesus burst out of us. We can't help but tell others how much we love Him and how great we think He is.
4. Eat the popcorn.

Crafts:

Basket Full of Leaves

Materials needed:

Basket

Cut outs of various leaves (colored red, yellow, orange, and brown)

Activity (2 variations):

Option One:

1. Write or draw things your child is thankful for on the leaves.
2. Place each leaf in the basket and place basket as a centerpiece for your table.
3. Pull a leaf from the basket to remember their gratitude and/or add to as often as you'd like with new things they're thankful for.

Option Two:

1. Make a sentence (placing one word on each leaf) and then piece sentence together.
An example might look like this... "I"(on first leaf), "am" (on second leaf), "thankful" (on third leaf), "for" (on fourth leaf), "Mommy." (on fifth leaf)
2. Then scramble sentence in basket and try to piece back together.

Thankful Leaf Wreath:

Materials needed:

Colored paper (red, yellow, orange, brown, and green)

Markers or colors

Tracers of fall leaves

Paper plate

Scissors

Glue or stapler

Activity:

1. Cut a half circle out of the middle of the paper plate (leaving the bottom half there).
2. On the bottom half of the half circle in the middle of the paper plate write: "Thank you Lord for ..."
3. Trace the leaves on the colored paper and cut out.
4. Then, write or draw things your child is thankful for on each leaf.
5. Glue/staple the leaves to the outer circle of paper plate, making the wreath.

Thankful Tree:

Materials needed:

Colored paper (red, yellow, orange, brown, and green)

Piece of white paper

Markers or colors

Scissors

Glue

Activity:

1. Make a tree trunk out of the brown paper and glue it to the white piece of paper OR draw and color a tree trunk on a piece of white paper.
2. Trace your child's hand(s) on the colored pieces of paper (red, yellow, orange, green, and maybe even brown and cut out.
3. Write or draw things your child is thankful for on each hand print
4. Glue the hand prints to the tree as it's leaves.

Thankful Turkey Craft

Materials needed:

Paper

Marker(s)

Paint (for painting hand...washable finger paint works great!) OR

Cut outs of leaves/feathers and a turkey body (see tracers from this handout)

Activity:

1. Paint your child's hand with paint, coloring the palm and thumb brown and the other four fingers multiple colors (washable finger paint works great).
2. Then have your child make a handprint on the paper and add legs and a gobbler to make a turkey (or create a turkey with various craft tools, i.e the leaf/turkey tracers in this handout).
3. Lastly, write what your child is thankful for on each of his/her fingers (or the turkey's feathers) with the following saying written or attached to it...

“I am Thankful for” BOOK

This may be an activity that is done over the span of a week (a page per day).

Materials needed:

White paper (or light, colored paper)

Stapler

Scissors

Markers or colors

Activity:

1. Cut paper in half (or you could leave it whole).
2. Staple paper along one side to form a book.
3. Create an “I’m thankful for...” book by illustrating the sentence on each page and/or finishing the sentence on the page and drawing/coloring an illustration to go with it:
 - a. Cover Page – “I’m Thankful for ...” (Write title and let your child decorate it however they want.)
 - b. Page 1 – “I’m thankful for my family!” (Write sentence and have your child draw a picture of your family.)
 - c. Page 2 – “I’m thankful for my friends!” (Write sentence and have your child draw a picture of their friends and talk about the qualities that make a good friend.)
 - d. Page 3 – “I’m thankful for my home!” (Write sentence and draw a picture of your home and talk about what other types of homes other kids may live in.)
 - e. Page 4 – “I’m thankful for my toys!” (Write sentence and draw a picture of your child’s favorite toy(s) and talk about the importance of sharing.)
 - f. Page 5 – “I’m thankful for my _____!” (Write sentence, filling in the blank...Let your child be creative and come up with his/her own thing he/she is

Chain of Gratitude

Materials needed:

Colored paper
Tape or stapler
Markers or colors

Activity:

1. Cut colored paper into one-inch strips.
2. On each strip, write something you are thankful for.
3. Tape or staple strips into rings and intertwine to form a "chain of gratitude."

Just For fun...See who can form the longest chain, and/or drape finished chains from the ceiling or use as decorations at the Thanksgiving Feast.

I Am Thankful Pumpkin (with Pocket):

Materials needed:

Pumpkin tracer (from handout)
Orange and white paper
Magazines (optional)
Stapler/Glue
Marker or colors
Scissors



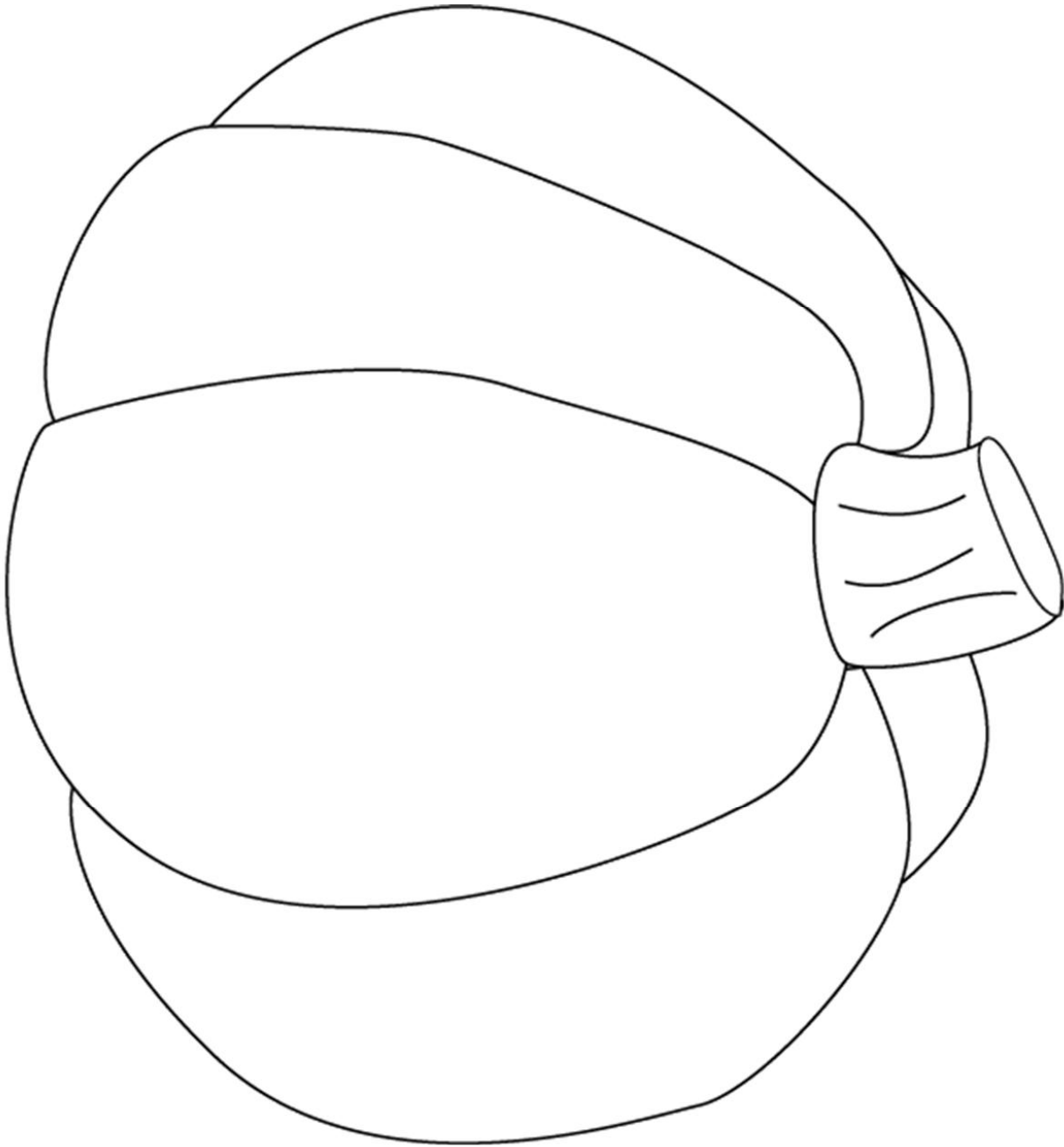
Activity:

1. Use the pumpkin tracer to trace and cut out 2 pumpkins on orange paper or you could use white paper and color the pumpkins.
2. Cut off the top of 1 of the pumpkin cut outs and throw away (or recycle).
3. Staple/Glue the bottom half of the pumpkin you just cut on top of the whole pumpkin, making a pocket for items to fit in.
4. Draw pictures and cut them out (or cut pictures from magazines) of different things your child is thankful for.
5. On the outside of the "pocket" write "Thank you Lord for ..."
6. Then place the pictures inside the pocket of the pumpkin.

Basket Full Of Leaves and Thankful Leaf Wreath Craft



I Am Thankful Pumpkin (with Pocket)



Thankful Turkey craft

