



Thanksgiving Family Resources



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Family Activities:

- Chain Reaction:

Make a "God is Good" chain. Cut paper strips and write or draw ways that God is good or things you are thankful for on the strips. Connect them together to form a chain that you can display as a reminder of God's goodness. (1)

- Blessing Box:

Give everyone a piece of paper. Ask them to write or draw things that they are thankful for. Put the papers in a blessing box or jar. Use the blessing box or jar as a centerpiece on Thanksgiving Day. Before, during, or after your meal, pass the box around the table, invite each person to take out a slip of paper and share what is written or drawn on it.

- Name Tags:

Create a name tag for every person who will share in the Thanksgiving meal. Write a note of thanks or gratitude for each person on the card.

- Read a Book Together:

Here's a suggestion: *Thank You, God* by J. Bradley Wigger
Visit picturebooktheology.com for additional ideas

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- Prayers:

A Word of Thanks

*For health and strength and daily food;
for all the joys that make life worth living;
for the opportunity to help those who need us so very much,
we give you thanks, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen. (2)*

*O God for all the blessings we enjoy, we give you thanks.
Help us look at the world around us in such a way that we see
your hand in creation and in those we meet.
Help us be a blessing today to those gathered around this table
and in all our days to those we meet at home, at school, in church,
and in our community. Amen. (3)*

- Generous Gratitude:

Collect and donate food or other needed items to a local food pantry to shelter. Contact a Senior Center or Care Facility in your area about ways that you could bless them (color thanksgiving placemats, notes for residents, etc.)

- Additional Resources:

Find additional resources and links at:
michiganumc.org/resources/childrens-ministry-tool-box/thanksgiving/

- (1) - <https://buildfaith.org/thanksgiving-activities-for-church-and-families/>
- (2) - (Alexander Campbell, Pilgrim Prayers for Mealtime, Pilgrim Press 2013)
- (3) - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/thanksgiving-celebrations-for-the-home>

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