

Holidays

Thanksgiving Tree of Thankfulness

Best Use

As a Thanksgiving family activity

Nutritional Value

Create a Thanksgiving tradition with immediate and/or extended family as a reminder of the many blessings the Lord gives us.

Advance Preparation

Make sure you have the following on hand.

- Construction paper in fall colors
- Scissors, pencils/crayons
- Small plant or small tree branches in a vase
- Optional: old magazines/glue sticks

Serve It Up

Follow these steps for a great experience...

1. Place a small plant or arrangement as a centerpiece for your table.
2. Cut leaf shapes out of the construction paper or trace/cut everyone's hand to make a special leaf. Punch a hole in the paper and run ribbon through it. Place the papers in a basket with pencils/crayons.
3. As each family member arrives for your Thanksgiving meal time together, ask them to write out what they are thankful for. Younger children can draw a picture or cut/paste something out of a magazine.
4. Before you begin eating, place each of the leaves on the centerpiece "tree."
5. During the meal, take turns allowing everyone at the table to share what they wrote on their leaf.
6. Read 1 Chronicles 29:13 together: *"Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name."*
7. End your time together by asking the oldest person to thank God for His abundance and the many blessings He has given your family.

Optional: When the meal is over, take the thankful leaves and record the items of thanks that were written down in a Thankful Journal to update each Thanksgiving and review the prior years' blessings together.

Optional: When you are finished, have any children draw on a poster a tree trunk, grass, flowers, etc. Take the leaves and attach them. Hang the poster during the next couple of weeks to remind you of the things you are thankful for.