

## Building Faith in the Family (THANKSGIVING IS THURSDAY!)

# SAY THANKS TOGETHER

### WITH SELFIES OF YOUR FAMILY GATHERED AROUND...

- one person cooking or baking
- a picture of favorite relatives or friends
- turkey or chicken or a roast or mashed potatoes
- a huge pile of leaves (with two persons standing in them)
- a favorite pie (or cake) with one slice missing
- a game you all love to play
- something that smells amazing (everybody sniff)
- a pet doing a trick—or eating a treat
- a musical instrument being played
- one person standing on their head or on one leg

Make a PowerPoint or a big poster with your selfies. On Thanksgiving night, show the selfies, look at each gift, and say a prayer of thanks for it.



### A-B-C THANK YOU

Here's a variation of an alphabet game you might play on a car trip, but for each letter, name something to thank God for. The first person starts with the letter "A": *I thank God for the Apple pie we're going to eat* (or for *Asparagus*, if your taste runs that way). Go around the table, each person using the next letter in the alphabet, until you reach "Z."

Some letters will be harder than others. You can stretch the answers on difficult letters, and some can be a little silly. If youngsters have trouble, adults can make suggestions, but let children choose final answers. There are no right or wrong answers; it's a way to think about and say thanks for blessings.



### THANKSGIVING FACTS

- Thanksgiving was first celebrated in 1621—a harvest festival lasting 3 days. 50 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag Indians attended.
- No turkey was on the menu; venison, duck, goose, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish probably were—plus pumpkins and cranberries (*but not pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce*).
- Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a holiday

- in 1863. Sarah Josepha Hale, who wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb," convinced him to do it.
- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be our national bird, but the eagle won out.
- "Jingle Bells" was at first a Thanksgiving song.
- President Calvin Coolidge received a live raccoon for Thanksgiving—meant to be eaten. (The man who sent it called the meat "toothsome.") The Coolidges adopted the pet and named it Rebecca.