

The background is a collage of autumn-themed illustrations. Large, detailed maple leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red are scattered across the top and left sides. Smaller, simpler leaves and small five-petaled flowers in muted colors are scattered throughout the lower half of the page.

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**FRESH AND FUN
IDEAS FOR YOUR**

Fall Festival

Fall Fest Game:

FRUIT HARVEST RELAY

Supplies:

- Bible
- large tub
- water
- cranberries
- apples
- containers
- plastic spoons
- a scale



Allergy Alert!

Be aware that some people have food allergies that can be dangerous. Consult with parents about allergies their children may have.

The Game

At one end of the room, fill a tub with cold water, cranberries, and a few apples. At the other end of the room, form teams of four or five. Give each person a plastic spoon and each team the same size container. Each team has five minutes to make its container the heaviest. You'll need a scale at the end of the game.

On "go," one person from each team runs to the tub, scoops up cranberries or apples using only a plastic spoon (no hands), and returns to dump cranberries or apples into the team's container. If the person drops the fruit on the way back, he or she has to pick it up with the spoon. The next person in line repeats the process.

Weigh the containers at the end of the relay. As families are enjoying the fruit, ask:

- **How easy or difficult was it to get the cranberries in the bucket?**
- **How about the apples?**

Read aloud Luke 10:2.

Say:

We get to share Jesus' love with others so they can follow Jesus, too. Sometimes it's easy to tell others about Jesus, just as it was easy to pick up the cranberries. Sometimes it's harder, like picking up the apples. But with God's help we can keep telling the good news about Jesus' bountiful love.

✦✦ For Extra Impact ✦✦

Cut the uneaten apples in half. Have family members each apply paint to an apple half and press the apple all over a sheet of paper to make apple prints. Then have them think of names of people with whom they can share Jesus' love and write those names by the apple prints.

Fall Fest Game:

HAPPY HARVESTERS

Supplies:

- beanbags (1 for each pair)
- sturdy disposable plates (1 per person)

The Game

Help family members form pairs. Ask families to form two lines in the middle of the room with partners facing each other, about an arm's length apart. Make sure there's plenty of space, as the pairs will be getting farther apart as they play.

Give each person a sturdy disposable plate. Place a beanbag on each plate in one of the lines. One person from each pair should now have a beanbag. Players must hold their plates with both hands and toss the beanbag to their partners using only the plates. The partners must try to catch the beanbag "food" on their plates. After they catch it, they should take one small step backward. If someone drops the beanbag, he or she has to scoop it up with the plate and name one thing he or she is thankful for before tossing it to his or her partner.

Family members can bend their plates slightly to make it easier to keep the beanbag on the plate.

Discussion Questions

After playing the game, ask:

- **How hard or easy was it to think of something you're thankful for in this game? Explain.**
- **How does God provide for us every day?**
- **What are some other things you are thankful for?**

Say:

The Bible tells us that we should always give thanks to God for everything, not just at certain times of the year, but every day!

Fall Fest Game:

GROUP HARVEST RELAY

Supplies:

- sports balls (soccer balls, footballs, tennis balls, etc.)
- masking tape

The Game

Choose four areas in your play space to serve as four harvest areas, and mark each with masking tape boundaries on the floor. Tell everyone these areas represent the field, the basket by the side of the field, the trailer that carries the baskets, and the barn. Place all the different sports balls in the field (the first harvest area). Form three groups and assign them to wait at the "field," the "basket" (the second harvest area), or the "trailer" (the third harvest area).

The goal of the game is to work together to bring in the harvest.

People in the field must get all the sports balls from their area to the basket. They do this by getting on their hands and knees and pushing the sports balls with their noses or the tops of their heads.

Each player pushes one ball at a time and then runs back to the field to see if there's more to harvest. As soon as the sports balls start arriving at the basket, people waiting there will push them to the trailer, also on their hands and knees using their noses and heads. As they arrive at the trailer, the third group will push them to the barn, using their noses and foreheads.

Encourage families to hurry with the harvest. Folks will quickly realize that to have a fast harvest, they must look out for one another when pushing and keep at it even when it's hard. People may even find ways to help others who are pushing a football that won't roll straight. When the entire harvest is in the barn, congratulate everyone for their great work.

Discussion Questions

After playing the game, ask:

- **How did we work together to bring in the harvest?**
- **What kind of fruit do Christians grow?**
- **What can we do to grow this kind of fruit in our lives?**

Say:

Jesus said that his followers should grow fruit that lasts. That fruit includes goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Fall Fest Craft:

LET IT SHINE

Supplies:

- lunch sacks
- battery-operated tea lights
- cookie cutters
- sand
- pencils

The Craft

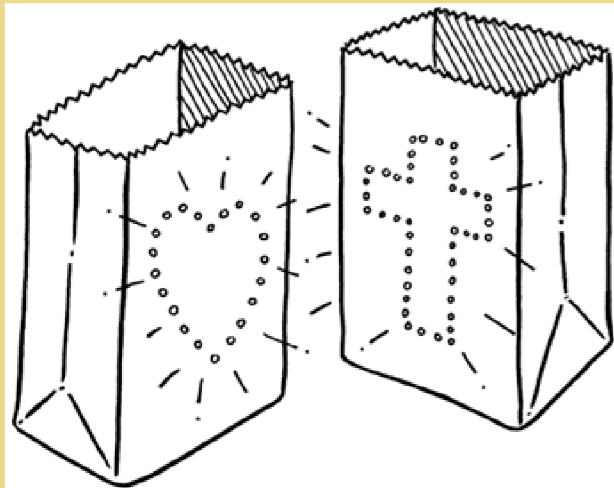
Explain that a luminaria is used to light a path. Distribute lunch sacks and have family members trace cookie cutters to make hearts, crosses, or other shapes on the sacks. Then have them use pencils to poke holes through the sacks about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart around the traced shapes. Have people pour enough sand in the sacks to cover the bottoms. Give each person a tea light to place in the sack and light at home.

Close in prayer, asking God to help people who are going through dark times to see the light of Jesus and trust him to guide them.

✦✦ For Extra Impact ✦✦

Read aloud Matthew 5:14-16. Challenge families to think of a good deed that can be a light to others during the week.

Have family members share ways we can be God's light for the world.



Fall Fest Craft:

THANKFUL TURKEYS

Supplies:

- cardstock
- markers
- scissors

For each turkey you'll need:

- a red apple
- colored toothpicks
- small gumdrops
- red licorice
- a large yellow Swedish Fish candy
- a large marshmallow
- black gel icing



Allergy Alert!

Be aware that some people have food allergies that can be dangerous. Consult with parents about allergies their children may have.

The Craft

Have each person set their apple on a working surface. Stick four colored toothpicks in a semicircle into the top of the apple. Spear four small gumdrops on all the toothpicks to create multicolored tail feathers.

For the turkey's head, have people stick a toothpick into the top of the apple opposite the tail feathers. Cut a 1-inch section of red licorice and spear it lengthwise on the toothpick for the turkey's neck. Then stack one yellow Swedish Fish candy for the beak and a large marshmallow for the turkey's head on the toothpick. Use the black gel icing to dot eyes on the marshmallow.

Have each person cut out a large feather from the card stock. Write, "Give thanks to God!" on the feather, and attach it to the back of the turkey with a toothpick.

✦ For Extra Impact ✦

Have family members tell things they're thankful for while eating the Thankful Turkeys.

Close in prayer and encourage everyone to each give thanks to God for at least one thing.

