



## *Home Activity: Thanksgiving Table Ritual*

As a Christian family, you are called to be an example of love, hope and gratitude for others. You can inspire others by having an “attitude of gratitude” for all the blessings which God has bestowed on your family. And you can be a family which doesn’t take its members for granted. This simple ritual is designed to help your family stay aware of the blessing of family and the gift each member brings to the family table.

Get construction paper or other heavy paper in fall colors (orange, light brown, green). If you have younger children in your household, fall stickers might also be helpful. Cut pieces of construction paper, one for each member of the family, in the shape of an autumn leaf, a pumpkin, or some other symbol of harvest and blessing. Make sure you cut the paper in such a way that each one can stand up (like a table tent). Decorate the name cards with stickers if desired.

Then put the names of all family members in a basket and have everyone draw a name (making sure no one gets his/her own name). Have each member write the first name of the person he/she selected on one of the name cards, and then add words or images which represent the gifts which this person brings to the family.

On Thanksgiving Day or another fall feast day, gather around the family table for a meal. Have the person who created the name card present it to the appropriate family member, using the following blessing:

*O God, we thank you for the gift of (person’s name) to our family. Our family is holier, happier and more blessed because of his/her presence in our lives. We are especially grateful to you for giving (name) the gift of (name something which you wrote or drew on the name card). Thank you, God, for (name). Present the person with his/her name card.*

After everyone has received his/her card, place them on the table and enjoy your Thanksgiving feast.