



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

I AM Thankful FOR...

remaining close to Jesus during the holidays

For three seasons a year, if we choose, we've a steady supply of Christian community. Church, youth group, and school friends can be regular reminders to stay on task, "be fervent in spirit, and serve the Lord" (Romans 12:11).

But how do we sustain an unwavering, growing faith in the midst of holidays? How do we avoid becoming lazy and making excuses to set aside our first Love? **We think outside the box!**

Read the following ideas to keep a fresh fervency in the Spirit during the holidays. Listen for the days, ways, and friends God brings to mind and heart and don't wait for excitement or a church mission trip to start. Remember from where your strength, hope, and courage comes as you make the most of your holiday.

1-on-1 with Jesus: Make a weekly time to spend with Jesus. Put these times on your calendar. Some ideas...

- Go out for ice cream, turn off your phone and read the Bible.
- Explore a new place. Pack a lunch and thank Jesus for what's around.
- Work out with Jesus! Go for a run or to the gym, accompanied by Christian music or a sermon.

Memory Mondays: Commit to memorize one verse each week. Invite a friend to join you. Write/recite the verse in a different way each day.

- Write it with chalk on the sidewalk or with your finger in the dirt.
- Rewrite a verse in words used today.
- Draw a picture to represent your verse, or journal your thoughts.

Create a tune to sing the verse. Could you explain it to a 5-year old?

Secret Service: Choose at least one week to secretly serve someone in the name of Christ.

- Write a prayer for this person in a card or on paper. Anonymously leave it in their path, mailbox, or workplace.
- Find our his/her favorite things (color, candy, hobby, etc). Leave small gifts to show how God has made them intentionally unique.
- Serve through action by weeding a garden, mowing the lawn, or (if you live with them) taking over his/her chores without seeking recognition.
- Knock on their door or call. "God's placed you on my heart. Any way I can help you, today?"

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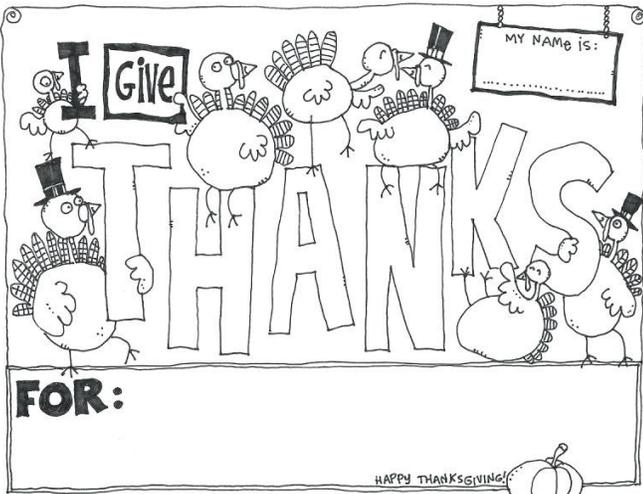
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Western Oaks Christian Church CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Come One, Come All Family Ornament making night



Wednesday, December 12th

We will start with dinner at 6 p.m. and then have a variety of ornaments you can choose from to make. We will sing Christmas carols as we make ornaments to keep or perhaps give away.

NO Children's Christmas Play Practice
Sunday, November 25th. Practice will resume on Sunday, December 2nd from 12:30-2 p.m. Keep singing and practicing your lines!!!

Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home

Author Traci Smith explains that cultivating a spirit of gratitude has proven to lower stress and lead people toward optimistic world view and greater life satisfaction. Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday, but it is a perfect day to focus on our blessings. Ages 5 and up.

Materials: *Construction Paper Scissors Yarn Hole punch Markers/crayons/pencils*

A tree (or bush) outside, or create an indoor tree with a branch put in a vase or A construction paper tree on a wall in your house.

Time Investment: 15-45 minutes for the activity, time to make the gratitude ornaments and loop of yarn through the hole. Make enough circle ornaments for each family member to have at least three.

2. On Thanksgiving Day, before the meal (if possible) ask each family member to sit at the table or set up a card table and write down on the ornaments at least three reasons he or she is thankful. (one reason per ornament). Younger children can draw pictures. Each person can share their reasons as they place them on the tree.

3. Gather around the tree and take turns naming the items and hanging them on the tree.

4. To conclude: someone says, "Our tree is full of so many reasons why we are grateful this day. Let us continue our celebration together knowing that our lives are full! Let's all say **AMEN!**" Then invite everyone to take one home at the end of the day to remind them.

THANKSGIVING

DOUBLE WORD SCRAMBLE



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