

Living Faith @



Dear Faith Shapers,

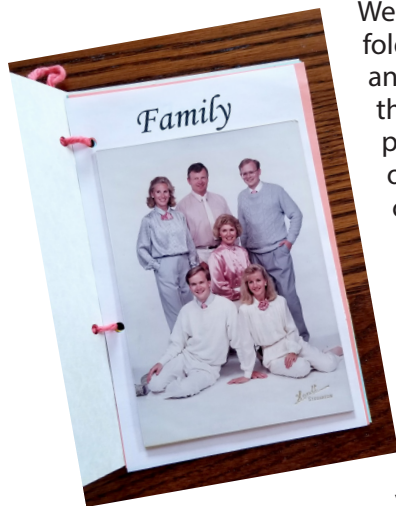
Happy Thanksgiving!

Um, no, this isn't an overdue (nor super early!) submission for the "Living Faith" page, although its origin was from last fall.

Yet "thanksgiving" is appropriate any time of year, even if we are in the midst of Lent — or maybe especially in Lent, when we are called to be particularly grateful for Christ's suffering and sacrifice on our behalf.

Psalm 50:23 declares, "Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me", and the Thanksgiving Booklet created on one of my church's Family Sundays may be used as a guide for prayer, thanksgiving and mindfulness to others through Lent and throughout the year.

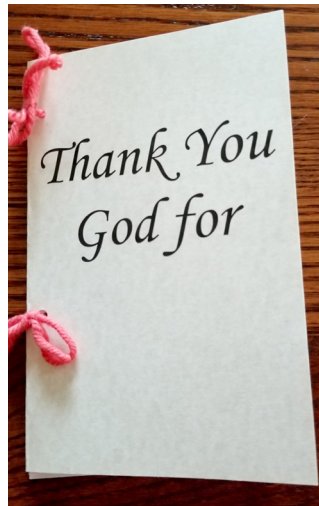
HOW TO MAKE A THANKSGIVING BOOKLET



We first created a simple cover folding cardstock lengthwise and punching a couple holes through (see reverse of this page for a rough template). If one doesn't have cardstock, construction paper could be a sturdy alternative. I preprinted our cover pages with "Thank You God for", but one could title it any number of ways: "My Thank You Book", "Thanksgivings", "Praise & Prayer Book", whatever suits you!

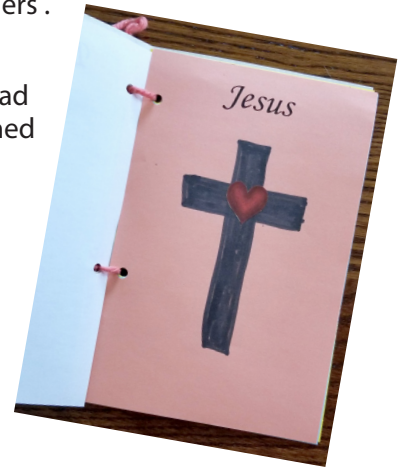
For the interior pages, I also pre-printed (and pre-punched) a number of half pages titled at the top with Family, Friends, Pets, Home, School, Church, Jesus, Creation, Work, Play, Food, Health, Hobbies, Helpers, but also provided many blank pages. Thus, one might be more specific than "Family" and create one page for Parents, another for Grandparents, then Brothers & Sisters, Aunts & Uncles, Cousins, or pages for Favorite

THANKSGIVING BOOKLET FOR LENT



Places, Sunday School, Teachers . . . possibilities are limitless.

Once children and families had selected the pages they wished to use, they put them within the cover page in desired order and tied all together through the holes with yarn. I suggest a bow tie, not a knot, so it's easier to add or rearrange pages later. Then they drew pictures on the appropriate pages of family or church or creation (there were stickers, too, for variety), and of course at home they might also paste in photographs.



The booklet then becomes a resource to page through and lift up thanksgiving for the multitude of loved ones and blessings in your life. In addition, the blank page opposite each titled page

can be a simple prayer journal to write specific requests for someone ill or for a particular need at church or in the community, and to add notes of thanksgiving when prayers are answered.



Whether you create a Thanksgiving Booklet like this for Lent or any time of year, may it aid your family in being creatively thankful and prayerful.

— Pastor Jeff Jacobs,
St. Paul – Lime Springs (IA)
Saetersdal & St. Matthew's (MN)

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*Thank You
God for*

