

# This Thanksgiving

## Be a hostess with the mostest!

Are you hosting this year's turkey-day feast? Then, you'll want a few ideas to make your dinner time even more special. For all of us who have spent many years slaving away over the annual meal, we understand all the hours put into it—with just a few minutes of eating time.

There's lots of ways to make your time together special. I've attached a couple of printable ideas that our family has done over the years.

- **Thanksgiving Proclamation 1789**—Have your child/teenager read President George Washington's Thanksgiving proclamation from 1799. It's a great way to remind everyone of the history of this day.
- **Table Talk Questions**—This is a fun prompt to get everyone thinking of good family memories or funny stories. Here's a little tip: The youngest and the oldest members of the family usually have the funniest answers. Have your video camera ready.
- **Thank You Jesus**—Look around your holiday table and thank God for each an everyone sitting with you. A day together is a sweet blessing, remember that.

Most importantly, no matter what you do, don't get caught up in making things perfect. It's in the imperfect moments where you make the sweetest memories.

Happy Thanksgiving,

**Joanne**

# Thanksgiving Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and—  
Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:”

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favor, able interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Go. Washington

# Thanksgiving Table Talk

Questions to begin the conversation.

1. What are you thankful for this year? Be specific.
1. Share your favorite Thanksgiving memory.
2. If you had to choose one food item on the table to eat every day for the rest of your life, which would it be?
3. Name one person at the table who does a great job being thankful.
4. What's your favorite holiday and why?
5. What was your favorite movie this year?
6. What book would you recommend this year?
7. If you could time travel where would you go and why?
8. Name one thing you hope you never eat again.
9. If you could relive one day this year what day would it be?
10. Which family member do you most resemble. Why?
11. What house chore do you hate doing?
12. Growing up, who was the happiest person you knew?
13. Who has been the biggest influence with your walk with Jesus?
14. Where is your dream destination?
15. If you could blink and have one talent what would it be?