



# Thanksgiving

*A Godly Play Style Story*

by Lauren Odile Pinkney



# Thanksgiving: A Godly Play Style Story

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Instructions:

This story is intended to mimic setting the table, this can be done from a picnic basket onto a blanket or using a box with removable lid, that can become a “table top”. To make it a table top you can use a napkin as a table cloth, a shoe box with removable lid would do the job. You will need the following items or items like them, I have also included images at the end that can be printed out too in either “congregation large size” or “curriculum box small size”.

If you don't want to use the print outs, you will need items to symbolize the following things:

- Family
- Cross
- Candle
- Corn
- Gardening tool
- Turkey (or fall creature)
- Maple leaf
- Church
- Friends
- Fireside
- Blanket
- Meal
- Pie
- Gift
- Cornucopia/basket
- Globe (if possible shaped like a heart)
- Hands as a heart (or glove with heart on)
- Heart with cross

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Today is a special day  
And when it's a special day, we set the table  
*(Make the box lid or picnic blanket into a table)*

Just like we set the table every Sunday and celebrate the Eucharist  
We do the same thing at home when it's time to celebrate

Today is not one of the three great times,  
but it teaches how to celebrate on those great times.

At Christmas we remember how lucky we are to have a family  
and to never take our warm homes for granted.

At Christmas we give and receive gifts  
and remember to tell each other we love them.

*Place the Family symbol down in front of the table.*

At Easter we remember how important it is to eat a meal together  
and to never take our freedom for granted.

At Easter we remember that this season is wonderful as well as sad  
because Jesus came back and death was not the end.

*Place the Cross symbol down in front of the table.*

At Pentecost, well Pentecost is hot,

We remember the joy of being able to tell the story of Christ's Resurrection,  
And to not take for granted the gifts and talents God has given us.

At Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming down from heaven like fire.

*Place the Candle symbol down in front of the table.*

At these 3 great times,

we learn that God is with us,

God became human, *(point to family)*

God is stronger than death, *(point to the cross)*

God is always with us. *(point to the candle)*

When we enter in and celebrate these great times,

We have to remember, give thanks and not take things for granted.

At thanksgiving, we give thanks

We give thanks to God, as we do so often when we set the table,

Some people do this at home, and some people do this at church:

*Take box lid and place a fancy tablecloth on it*

For the earth, and the things that grow, and those who tend them  
*Place the corn symbol down on the table.*

For this land and the ancestors who cared for it time out of mind  
*Place the Gardening tool symbol down on the table.*

For the creatures that move and have their being  
*Place the fall creature symbol down on the table.*

For this city and this place and the people who call this home  
*Place the maple leaf symbol down on the table.*

For school, work and church and all the people we meet and know, and love  
*Place the church symbol down on the table.*

For good times when we can see our friends, on the playground, in community or  
home or away  
*Place the friends symbol down on the table.*

A place to live, a shelter and a way to stay warm  
*Place the fireside symbol down on the table.*

Our own things that make us feel safe  
*Place the blanket symbol down on the table.*

When we have enough food to survive  
*Place the meal symbol down on the table.*

And when we have extra food to enjoy  
*Place the pie symbol down on the table.*

For gifts that we receive  
*Place the gift symbol down on the table.*

And gifts that we give to others  
*Place the gift bag/cornucopia symbol down on the table.*

For gifts and talents we have and can share with the world  
*Place the globe symbol down on the table.*

For our family near and far, for those we live with, our family or chosen family

*Place the Hands as a heart or glove with heart symbol down on the table.*

And for God, who loves us no matter what,  
on our good days and bad days, who inspires us to love others as we love ourselves  
*Place the Heart with cross symbol down on the table.*

All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above  
Then thank the Lord  
Oh thank the Lord  
For all God's love.

*(If you have a favorite harvest hymn you can swap these lyrics for that one)*

I wonder which part of this story you liked best  
I wonder which part is the most important?  
I wonder which part is just for you?  
I wonder what you are giving thanks to God for today?















































