

Thankfulness

Make Thank You Notes

While we all know taking the time to write a thank-you note is always a lovely idea, we can make it even better by making our own thank-you notes.

Do this by either purchasing plain cards or by buying card-stock quality paper and cutting or folding it into the size you like (think: postcard or folded note card).

Then, using stamps, stickers, markers, crayons, paints, colored pencils, or whatever your imagination can dream up, decorate the cards in ways that are meaningful to your family. Be sure to leave room somewhere to write the words of gratitude!

“Thank You” From Around the World

Sometimes we’re so grateful that the words “thank you” barely seem enough. So, why not learn how to give thanks in several languages?

Choose whichever languages you want—the Internet can help! In the meantime, here are several to start with:

Language	Word	Pronunciation
Arabic	Shukraan	Shoo-ka-rahn
French	Merci	Mare-see
Mandarin	Xièxiè	Syeh-syeh
Spanish	Gracias	Grah-see-us
Swahili	Asante	Ah-san-tay
Swedish	Tack	Tock
Urdu	Shukriyah	Shook-ree-yah

For extra fun, look up the countries where these words are spoken! See if you have any friends from these places. Give thanks for those friends!

Gratitude Jars

Gratitude jars serve as a beautiful visual reminder of all we have to be thankful for. To create one with your family, you will need:

- A mason jar
- A ribbon
- Strips of colorful construction paper
- Permanent markers
- Glue

First, cut a strip of ribbon long enough to tie a bow around the jar. Then run a length of glue around the jar where you'd like the ribbon. Place the ribbon on the glue and smooth. Then, tie a bow.

Choose a prominent spot for the jar. Leave the strips of paper and a marker nearby. (You can either color-code the paper for family members or have it be Thankers Choice.) Then, challenge family members to fill out at least one strip of paper every day and drop it in the mason jar.

Enjoy watching how quickly it fills up. Encourage family members to look to the jar whenever one of you feels you don't have enough.

Write a Thankful Song

While plenty of songs of thanksgiving exist, why not make up your own? At least, make up some thankful words to an existing tune.

For starters, try writing thankful words to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Replace the underlined words or start from scratch!

*Thank, thank, tha-ank you (or thank you, God)
For this wonderful gift
It's so pretty and I love it
Thanks for this wonderful gift*

Or try the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

*Thank you, thank you, God above
For your mercy and your love
You are good and we love you
Thanks for animals at the zoo
Thank you, thank you, God above
For your mercy and your love*