

Doodling Our Faith Stories

By Paige Evers



Busy families don't always take time to notice how the Spirit is helping them to grow in their relationship with God. By talking, writing, and doodling together, you can learn more about faith from one another. When Thanksgiving arrives, use your poster of doodled faith stories to thank God for blessing your family during this season and throughout your lives.

For

Young Family

Season

Fall



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Needed

Poster Ideas worksheet (see last page); 3' length of butcher paper or plain wrapping paper, 1 piece poster board, or 6 sheets plain paper taped together; crayons, pens, and/or markers

Prepare in Advance

- Make a copy of the Poster Ideas worksheet.
- A week or so before Thanksgiving, put the paper for your poster and crayons, pens, and/or markers in a place where they can remain until Thanksgiving.

Activity Plan

1. Gather around the poster-making supplies. Explain you will work together to make a Gratitude Poster that tells how God is always with you. Everyone can participate by writing, doodling, or drawing on the poster. You will begin the poster today, and family members can add to it on their own in the days leading up to Thanksgiving.
2. Ask one person to pray aloud:

Dear God, thank you for always being near us. Thank you for this time with family and friends. Thank you for our faith in Jesus. Help us to learn more about you today and in the coming weeks. Amen.
3. Ask someone to read aloud a few items from the Poster Ideas worksheet. Invite everyone to choose crayons, pens, or markers and start writing, doodling, or drawing a response to one of the ideas. If someone is stuck and can't think of what to write or draw, suggest that he or she copy or illustrate one of the Scripture verses on the worksheet.
4. Encourage family members to keep adding to the poster during the days until Thanksgiving. Leave the Poster Ideas worksheet next to the poster for people to look at if they need an idea or a spark to guide their writing or doodling. You can also invite guests in your home to add to the poster.
5. Take a few moments at your Thanksgiving gathering to read and admire your work of art and record of faith! (Take the poster with you if are celebrating Thanksgiving in someone else's home.) Ask someone to pray this prayer after you've had a chance to review the stories, pictures, and doodles:

Dear God, thank you for all the ways you are with us! Help us to remember these great faith stories. Send your Spirit to help us keep growing in faith as we follow Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



Poster Ideas

Draw, write, or doodle to tell about:

- A time it felt like God was especially close to you
- Something you learned about God recently
- The face of someone you love and thank God for
- An important part of your childhood faith
- A favorite prayer
- A mealtime grace
- A time you were really happy
- A time you experienced God's grace
- A memory from Sunday School
- Pets you're thankful for
- A powerful moment you experienced in worship
- A special talent or ability God has given you
- Places you're thankful for
- A dream you have about your future
- A favorite Bible story about Jesus
- A special God-given talent or ability of a family member or friend
- A favorite person from the Bible
- A moment your heart overflowed with thankfulness
- A favorite story your parents or grandparents have told you
- A moment you felt the Holy Spirit guiding you
- A favorite Bible verse
- A place where you have made a difference
- A time you glimpsed God's kingdom
- An image of heaven
- A symbol of faith (cross, baptismal shell, church)
- A memory from a Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation
- A favorite church hymn or Sunday school song
- A question you have about God, Jesus, or being a Christian

Scripture Verses:

- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)
- For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. (Jeremiah 29:11-12)
- Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 107:1)
- Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (Luke 18:15-17)
- Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

