

Thanksgiving (Family Devotional)

 ministry-to-children.com/thanksgiving-family-devotional

Jenna Josina

- Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving? (Answer: Because of the good harvest)
- Who should we thank at Thanksgiving? (Answer: God)
- Why should we thank God? (Answer: Because God gives us the good harvest)

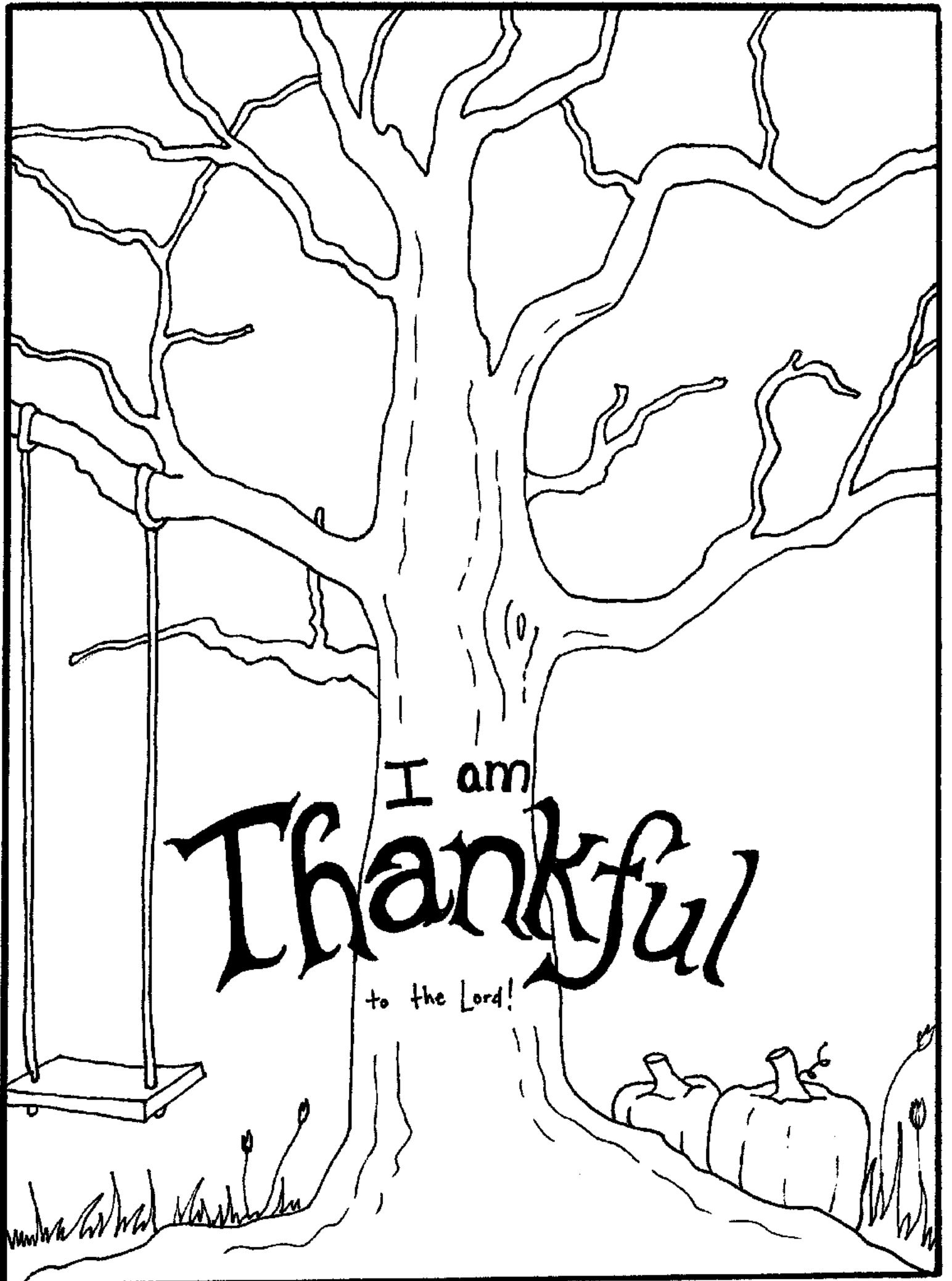
I am thankful for the good food that we eat, I am thankful for the beautiful colors that show up on our trees around Thanksgiving, and I am thankful for you – my family! But who should I thank for all of these wonderful things? I should thank God because God is the one who gives us our food. I should thank God because God is the one who makes the trees change with the seasons, and I should thank God for you because God is the one who gave you to me and me to you.

In Psalm 138 David thanks God with his whole heart and David thanks God for everything. Let's read it:

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased. All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands," (Psalm 138, ESV).

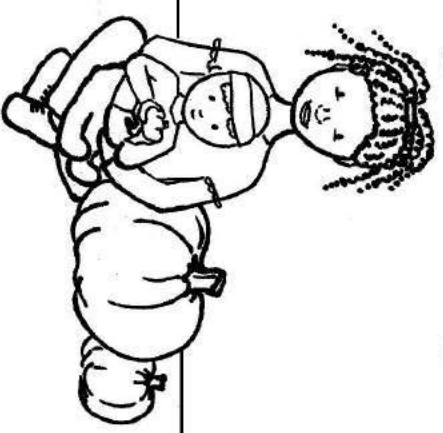
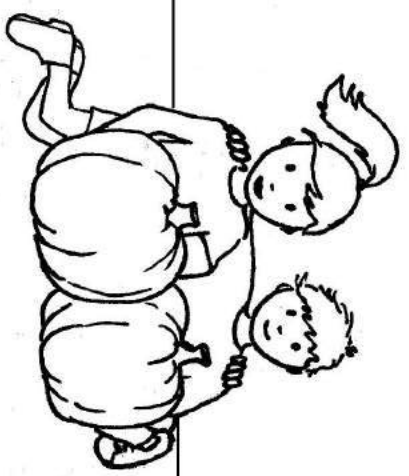
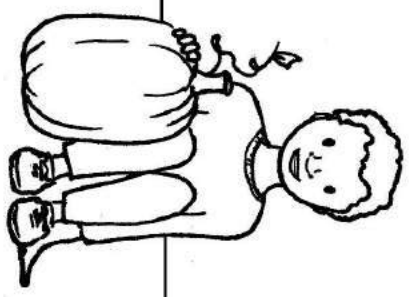
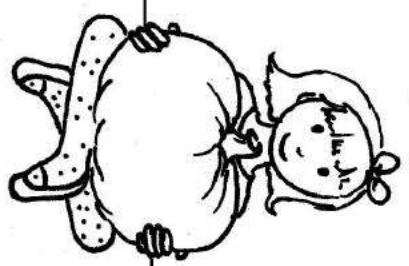
Ask the kids what they are thankful for and create a "thankful jar," whenever they are thankful for something they get to write it down (or draw it) and put it in the thankful jar.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you so much for everything that you have given to us. Thank you for another Thanksgiving where we get to remember how good you have been to us. Help us to thank you all the days of our lives, amen.



I am
Thankful
to the Lord!

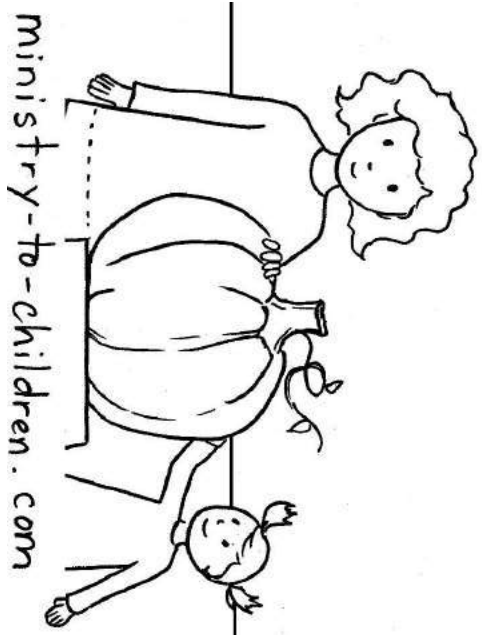
May you be strengthened with all power according to this glorious might,



for all endurance and patience with joy,

giving thanks

to the Father! - Col 1:11-12...



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Mandy Greer '19



Thankful Prayer

Father, Father up above

Thank you, thank you for your love

Thank you, for my parents and my teachers too

I can see and I know these came from you

Father, Father up above

Thank you, thank you for your love

Thank you for my meals and my warm bed too

I can see and I know these came from you

Father, Father up above

Thank you, thank you for your love

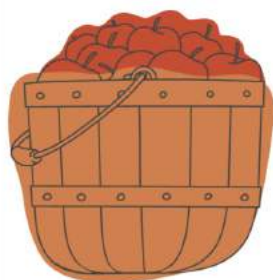
Thank you, for my friends old and new

I can see and I know these came from you

Thank you Father

For your gifts to me

Amen



A Thankful Prayer to Teach Children

 ministry-to-children.com/a-thankful-prayer-to-teach-children

Mimi
Bullock

November 26,
2014

Teaching a child to engage God in prayer should be a top priority for children's ministry leaders. This is a great time to teach about being thankful, when so many families and ministries are focusing on thankfulness. Teach children a thankful prayer, one that they can use all year long and watch their relationship with God grow. By combining simple phrases with hand and body movements kids will want to pray a thankful prayer every day.

First, here is a thankful prayer. I have kept it short so that it will be easy for children and teachers to remember.

Father, Father up above
Thank you, thank you for your love
Thank you, for my parents and my teachers too
I can see and I know these came from yo
Father, Father up above
Thank you, thank you for your love
Thank you for my meals and my warm bed too
I can see and I know these came from you
Father, Father up above
Thank you, thank you for your love
Thank you, for my friends old and new
I can see and I know these came from you
Thank you Father
For your gifts to me
Amen

Now comes the fun part! Ask children to stand and repeat the hand movements that you make. Here are my suggestions for hand and body movements but feel free to mix it up and make up some of your own.

- Father: give yourself a hug
- Up above: raise your hands above your head
- Thank you: clap your hands
- For your love: rub your heart with the palm of your right hand
- I can see: point to your eyes with your pointer fingers
- And I know: point to your head with your pointer fingers
- My meals: on rub your tummy with the palms of your hands
- My warm bed: fold your hands like you are sleeping
- My friends: point to the other children
- Old and new: close your hands into this for old and open them for new
- For your gifts: cup your palms together like you're holding a present
- To me: point to yourself with your palms
- Amen: bow your head and fold your hands

Teaching children to be thankful for what they have will help them grow into appreciative adults, aware of all of the blessings that God has given them.

Read more from Mimi by visiting her blog at [Tools for Kids Church](#).

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