

H3 HOLIDAY

HINTS & HELPS #2

“THANKSGIVING”



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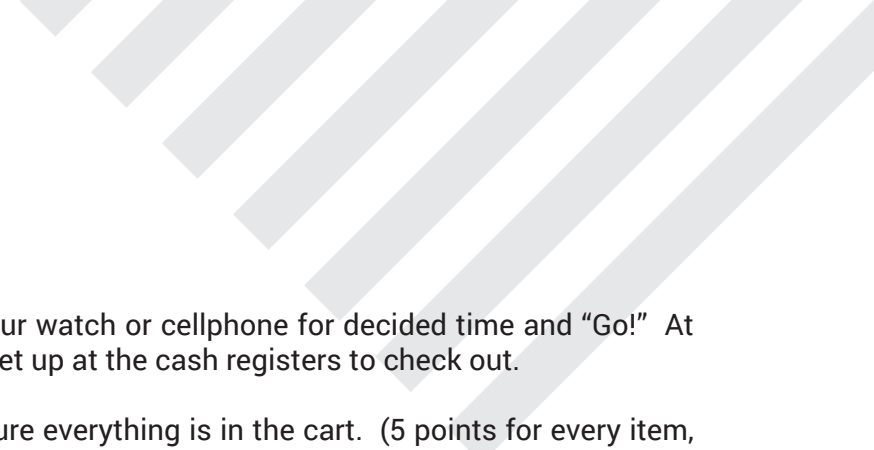
CONNECTION

“GOING A THANKSGIVING HUNT: A FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT”

Instead of the usual shopping trip of mom or dad going out to purchase all the supplies for this year's Thanksgiving dinner, make it an opportunity to connect and learn. This year, even make it a challenge and some fun. Consider going on a “Thanksgiving Hunt”, a family scavenger hunt for all the things you need for this year's big meal.

Use it as an opportunity to connect, work together, and laugh a little, doing something that is often a source of stress. This time can also be a teaching moment to teach your children about how to shop, wise stewardship/money management, and team work.

- 01 Sit down together as a family and decide on a menu. Even decide on decoration and other supplies (centerpieces, name cards, ...) Turkey, since it is the largest item, can be purchased separately.
- 02 Make a list of everything needed, allowing your children to think about what is needed. Add on the things they forget, including them in that conversation.
- 03 Looking over the list, beside each item, have your children think about what each item might cost? Allow them to write down beside each item their price guesses in a colored pen. Beside the suggested price write down your price ideas in a different colored pen. Total up both lists, children's total price and parent's total price, to be considered later.
- 04 Take a moment to look over the list together, talk about how much is on the list, the number of items needed, and then also the costs. Talk about the fact that the average family in America will spend \$50 or about \$5 a person on Thanksgiving dinner.
- 05 Make at least 2 separate lists with an equal number of items on each list. These lists can be divided up “parent vs. children”, “child vs. child”, or “team vs. team”, with an adult & child teamed up.
- 06 Decide on the budget for each team or list (suggestion: \$20) and the store you will be going to shop. (suggestion: “super store” like Walmart), and the time it should take to find those items (suggestion: 30 minutes). Decide on a prize for the winner(s).

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- 07 Go to your chosen store, set your watch or cellphone for decided time and “Go!” At the end of the decided time, meet up at the cash registers to check out.
 - 08 Go through each list to make sure everything is in the cart. (5 points for every item, minus 1 point for every item missing)
 - 09 Check out, keeping the 2 lists and carts separate. (5 points for every dollar under the assigned budget limit, minus 1 point for every dollar over the limit)
 - 10 Head out to your car to pack up your items and tally up points.
 - 11 Once you get home, spend some time talking about things like: how hard it was to find items, the cost of items, and even budgeting/stewardship. Go back to your list and review the guessed prices and totals to see how close your children were.

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: Do the hunt together as a family and not make it as much of a competition.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN/TEENS: Allow them the freedom, if you are comfortable, to do the hunt on their own without help, allowing them to navigate the store on their own.

CONVERSATION

“FULL MENU OF THANKS GIVING AND SHARING”

We all love the Norman Rockwell idea of everyone sitting around the table smiling and taking turns thinking of one thing they are thankful for before a quick prayer and digging in. More than likely it is a quick go-a-round, and then your family is done.

This year, make the giving of thanks a full meal activity that continues throughout the whole meal all the way to dessert!

Make a menu of every item your family will be serving or have on the thanksgiving table. Make the menu as simple or as fancy as you like. Have fun with it, making a cover, “naming” your restaurant.

Add pictures and silly descriptions of the food. Most importantly, every item on the menu will have a “price”. The “price” will be answering an assigned question or sharing a thankfulness. No item can be put on a person’s plate or served to them unless they “pay the price”. This also includes “seconds” and “thirds.” Every time someone puts that item on their plate they must “pay” again.

HERE IS A SUGGESTED, SAMPLE OF MENU ITEMS WITH PRICES:

- Turkey: What is one of the “Biggest” things you are thankful for?
- Stuffing: What is one thing “Inside” of someone else at this table you are thankful for?
- Corn: What is something “Corny” or silly you are thankful for?
- Beans: What is a place you have “Bean” this year that you were thankful to go?
- Cranberry: What is one thing that you are thankful to “Berry” and forget about from this last year?
- Gravy: Who is someone not here that you are “Over the Top” thankful for?
- Potatoes: If you were to do a “Mash Up” of your 3 favorite things about our family what would they be?
- Yams/Sweet Potatoes: Who is someone that has been “Sweet” to you this year?
- Bread/Rolls: What is one thing that costs “A Lot of Dough” you are thankful that we can afford to have?
- Drinks: Make toast to someone or something!
- Pumpkin Pie: What is a “Piece” of who you that you are thank for?
- Scoop of Ice Cream/Cool Whip Topping: Say one “Cool Thing” about the person sitting next to you?

COMMUNITY

“GIVING THANKSGIVING THANK YOU NOTES”

Often the thankfulness and thank you’s are limited to around the holiday dinner table and, in the home, to other family members. Why not this year, extended the thankfulness and the thank you’s beyond the walls of your home and family?

Thanksgiving, of all times, is a time to give thanks and say thank you. What a perfect time to send “Thank You Notes”. Go out and purchase a box or two of blank thank you notes, or have your family create their own.

Sit down as a family, and with your children, come up with a list of 5-6 people each that deserve a thank you. Before starting to write, make it meaningful by discussing each person on the list, why they are on that family member's list, and what particularly they are thankful for about that person.

Everyone should pick people that are not present and maybe not immediately family, but challenge your children to think bigger.

Take some intentional time together to write the notes and share, even reading aloud what the notes say. After everyone is done, as you address and stamp your envelopes, take time with each note to say a quick prayer for that person, giving God thanks for that person and why the note was written.

If you are writing someone whom you are not sure if they have accepted Christ, add a Bible verse, an extra-special encouragement, or even an invitation to church during the up-coming holiday season. If you want to add a special surprise, add a small gift/gift card/gift certificate inside.

This is sure to be a special and unexpected way to encourage some people that your family is thankful for during this time of year.

SUGGESTED/SAMPLE LIST OF PEOPLE:

- Extended Family:
 - Uncle/Aunt
 - Cousins
- Friends
- Neighbors
- Church:
 - Pastors/ Church Leaders
 - Church Staff: Assistants, Maintenance
 - Teachers/Volunteers: Sunday School Teacher & Youth Group Small Group Leaders
- School:
 - Principal/Vice-Principal
 - Teachers
 - Staff: Cafeteria, Assistants, Maintenance, Coaches, Librarian
 - Bus Driver
- Extra-Curricular:
 - Sports Coaches
 - Instructors: Drama, Dance, Swim, Karate...
- Community:
 - Police or Fire Department
 - Local Leaders: Mayor/Councilman
- National/State:
 - President/Vice President
 - Governor
 - Senators