

Fall Family Activities

THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S CREATION



1 Appreciate the Autumn

Consider the beauty of autumn: the cooler air, the foliage, the wonderful fruits and vegetables of the season. With your family, design a wreath or similar decoration that you can hang on your door, place in your family prayer space, or display at your parish church. Share the beauty of God's season by designing something beautiful for your community to enjoy, to honor God's creation and remind others to appreciate the wonder of God's natural world.

2 Leaf Sort

Take a walk through your yard, visit a community hiking trail, or simply walk through your neighborhood instead of driving to complete a local errand. Bring a small bag along and collect leaves of different varieties with your child. As you collect leaves, ask your child "Why do you think this one is red instead of green?" or "Can you find a leaf that is smaller than this one?" Encourage conversation and questioning. If your child asks questions about leaves that you cannot answer, look up the answers together. Finally, spread the leaves out and sort them. You might want to group them by color, size, shape, texture, type of leaf, number of points, or orientation of the veins. Even though all the leaves you collected together are leaves, each one is so unique. Wonder together about the beauty and diversity of God's creation.



3 Put it to Rest

In fall, the Earth prepares for the slumber of winter. Genesis 8:22 reminds us that all of God's creation experiences the cycles of life. Use the fall as an opportunity to talk about cycles; you might want to discuss the change of seasons, the growth of seedlings into harvested fruits, or the life and death of Jesus. Pick an old habit or behavior that you would like to put to rest. Maybe television has encroached upon family dinners and baseball practice has displaced family prayer time. Make a family pledge to end a habit and replace it with something new, to renew your faith and celebrate the beautiful life that God has given you.

4 Enjoy the Harvest

The fall is a time of harvest, of gathering the fruits of labor, of reaping the benefits of hard work. Take a trip to your local market, farm, or orchard. Discuss the different types of fruits and vegetables that you see and remark on the beauty of God's creation. Together, thank God for the beauty and abundance of the harvest. Pray the Harvest Prayer (printable family prayer card version can be found on the last page of this eBook).

Harvest Prayer

Lord, thank you for this plenty,
For the harvest great and small,
For the beauty of this season,
For the wonder
that is fall.





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