
“A Season for Everything...Harvest Joys”

Sunday School Lesson for Celebrating Autumn



For a lot of people, transitioning seasons are marked by holidays, wardrobe changes, and new flavors at Starbucks. Fall might mean a chill in the air, brilliant leaf colors, and pumpkin spice in everything from cereal to pickles. Autumn is of course a lot more than early nightfall and candy corn, though. In fact, it's a great season to share some important Biblical principles with children. We can honor the joy of changing life patterns, as well as the wonder of harvest time. With the blessings of modern conveniences, we have the ability to live and work and thrive regardless of weather or harvest conditions, at least for the most part. But looking back at the meaning of harvest is a beautiful way to recognize how God continuously provides for us, and how He has designated times and seasons for specific purposes.

Lesson focus: This lesson uses the season of autumn to describe to children the wonder and beauty of varying times in the calendar, weather, and church year. We will look at God's designation of seasons, as well as how the harvest demonstrates His care for us. This lesson also reminds kids of the importance of reaching out to others and serving God, no matter what season it is.

Passage: Varied passages featured (depending on your choice of emphasis)

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade (or whoever you might have around!)

Materials Needed: Foam or fabric leaves, candy corn, paper, paper bags, glue, markers, scissors, corn, egg carton, google eyes, tissue, seed packets, Bible (optional materials, depending on crafts and activities of choice).



Games and Lesson Introduction

Lesson Opening: This lesson celebrates changing seasons, harvest, and fall. There are multiple options you might want to pursue in such a lesson.

Here are some activities to get kids thinking...(select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- Leaf-blowing competition: using plastic straws, “race” foam or paper leaves across a surface to see who can power their leaves through the quickest.
- Pumpkin “bowling”: Use real or fake pumpkins, rolled down an “alley” of some sort, and attempt to knock over plastic bottles or small cans.
- Candy corn toss: Space students a few feet apart in pairs. Have one student hold a plastic bucket, and let the other student toss small candy bars or candy corn into the bucket. Step closer together or farther apart to adjust the difficulty.
- Catch falling “leaves”: stand on a chair or small ladder, and toss handfuls of fake leaves into the air. Provide kids with buckets or bags to collect as many leaves as possible within a given time frame.
- Popcorn harvest relay: Split students into two main groups. Have one child at a time from each team walk across the room, scoop up a cup full of popcorn, and return to their team to fill a bowl or bucket. See which team fills the bucket fastest, or which bucket has more popcorn at the end of a time limit.

Discuss with students how changes in season can provide us with a beautiful reminder of God’s consistency. Nothing in life stays the same forever, and yet we see patterns and cycles that repeat on a regular basis. God is making all of these things happen. He makes the planets spin and the weather change, and we can trust His goodness throughout all of it. He is a powerful, amazing, yet loving and creative God. We can celebrate how He provides for and blesses us by giving the seasons, harvest, and sunshine.

Ask: What do you like about the season of autumn? Do you know what a “harvest” is?



Bible Lesson: A Season for Everything

Bible Lesson: There are a few angles you could take to hone in on Biblical principles for this topic. One potential emphasis for a fall celebration could be the way in which God orchestrates the seasons. He arranges a specific time for all things, and we can take joy and comfort in knowing that He is always in control.

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” -Genesis 8:22

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...*

9 What gain has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. 12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; 13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. 14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. 15 That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

-Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 9-15

Explain to students that the context for the Genesis verse takes place right after the story of Noah, when God destroyed almost everyone and everything with the flood. This verse reminds us that He has promised never to do that again. There will always be seasons for as long as time remains. Sometimes the weather causes damage, and can be frightening. But we know God is still in control. The Ecclesiastes passage reminds us that God made all things, and sets designated seasons for our lives. The best thing we can do is to live one day at a time, recognizing that all things come from and belong to God, and rejoicing in the work that we do.

Ask: How can doing work bring us joy and pleasure? Do you like to have a routine, or prefer things to just sort of happen at random?



The next passages refer to instructions for the harvest. In the Old Testament, specific rules were set regarding collection of food and the passing of time. Here, some of those are described:

“These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. ⁵In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight,^[a] is the Lord's Passover. ⁶And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. ⁷On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. ⁸But you shall present a food offering to the Lord for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.” -Leviticus 23:1-8

“And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.” -Leviticus 23:22

In Old Testament times (and throughout much of history), life patterns were based on the cycles of farming. People planted, the harvest of plants came in (hopefully), and people picked it to have food. Discuss how God set in place special rules that governed how people were supposed to plant and reap their crops. Some of the harvest was meant to go back to God. Additionally, provisions were made for poor people to be able to gather food and be taken care of. God also instituted holidays, so that the people could have times of rest.

Ask: What kinds of celebrations and seasonal patterns do we follow today? Do you think people really take a “sabbath” of no work, or do we tend to work all the time now?

The final element to review in this seasonal exploration is how Jesus described evangelism as a harvest. Of course, we aren't going to pluck people like grain or corn, but we can recognize that there are people who need to hear the Gospel and be brought into God's family. We can grow “fruits of the spirit” and celebrate a harvest of believers when we share the love of Christ with those in need.

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
-Matthew 9:35-38



Explain to students what this might mean. There are many people that need to know God loves them. A lot of people around the world, and in our own backyards, are sad and suffering. God has granted us the opportunity to share His love with them. Sometimes that means telling people about Jesus or inviting them to church. Sometimes it just means caring about them, talking with them, and demonstrating what it means to serve and offer kindness to others. We can be “harvest laborers” when we seek to help people around us.

Finally, end the lesson with a joyful seasonal shout from the Psalms:

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² *let the field exult, and everything in it!*

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³ *before the Lord, for he comes,*

for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness,

and the peoples in his faithfulness. -Psalm 96:11-13

Ask: How will the trees sing? What might be meant by these verses?

Explain that God has made everything in the world. When we see beauty in creation, it’s like those things are praising God and glorifying Him, just by doing what He put them on Earth to do. We can praise God with our lives when we remember that He made us and loves us. No matter what season it happens to be, whether we are laboring or resting or celebrating or sobbing, we can live in His presence and give thanks to Him for all that He provides.

Close with a prayer thanking God for the blessings of seasons and harvest. Ask for help in enjoying and appreciating each time of year we experience, as well as help in realizing a spiritual “harvest.”

Crafts: There are so many fun fall crafts to enjoy as we celebrate the season! Here are a few suggestions (full descriptions available):

- Candy Corn collage
- Leaf bracelet or decoration
- “Pumpkin Pouch” stuffed bag
- Paper strip pumpkin



“Fall Craft Ideas for Kids”

[Bible Craft Activities for Sunday School](#)

The leaves are changing, the wind is picking up, and pumpkin patches are in full swing...fall is a great time of year, and it's a great time for some festive crafts! On the one hand, the celebration of Halloween might seem challenging, as we do not wish to encourage any spooky or fearful practices. But rather than shrink away from anything resembling the holiday, why not focus on the positives of autumn instead?

There is plenty to honor as we look at harvest time, [Thanksgiving crafts](#), and seasonal joy. Here are a few simple [fall crafts for kids](#) of all ages to create. Feel free to put your own spin on things and make them as elaborate as you like. This is just a springboard for success. Have fun!

Bible Verses or captions for these crafts:

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. -Genesis 8:22

When he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” -Matthew 9:37-38

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven -
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy -Psalm 96:12

“Jesus took the FALL for you... be-LEAF it!”



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Craft one: “Candy Corn Collage”

You will need:

- Glue (stick or bottle; stick recommended)
- Construction paper or note cards
- Markers/decorative materials
- Candy corn



Procedure:

1. Have children draw a design or picture on the construction paper.
2. Use a glue stick (or bottle, but the stick likely dries faster and is often less messy) to go over the lines decorated.
3. Carefully attach candy corn pieces onto the glue line.
4. Allow the candy corn to dry. Hang on string, if desired.



*Note: you may need extra candy corn on hand for snacking during this activity.

This might be a good addition to our [Do Not Fear Halloween Coloring Page](#)

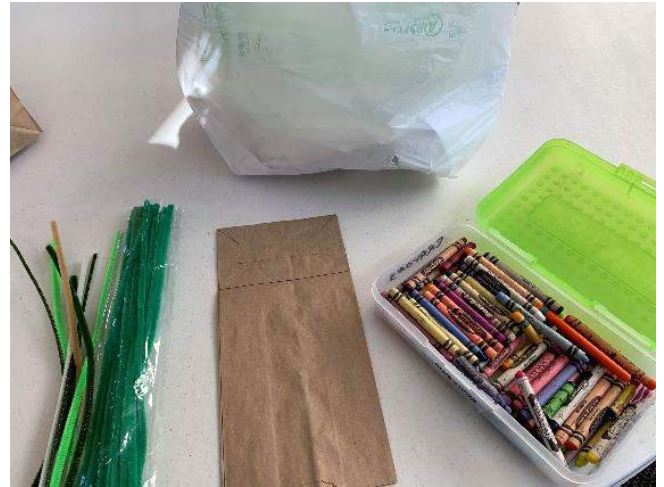


Craft Two: “Pumpkin Pouch”

Bonus: Converts into Turkey!

You will need:

- Paper bags
- Pipe cleaners or string
- Tissue or plastic bag “stuffing”
- Crayons or markers
- Additional embellishments, if desired



Procedure:

1. Have students color the paper bag, encouraging them to use orange and green for pumpkin authenticity.
2. If desired, add extra pumpkin décor or a Jack-o-Lantern face.
3. Use tissue or other paper to stuff the pumpkin bag.
4. Attach a green string or pipe cleaner for the pumpkin stem.

Bonus Note: Turn this pumpkin into a turkey! Use the same stuffing method, but turn the bag on its side and add google eyes and a red “waddle” on the end of the bag’s opening. Attach feathers (real or cut paper) to the bottom (back side) of the bag, and use as a lovely center piece for your holiday table!



Craft Three: “Happy Spiders”

You will need:

- Egg cartons, cut
- Crayons or markers
- Pipe cleaners
- Google eyes
- Glue
- Scissors



Procedure:

1. Ahead of time, cut egg cartons into pieces, with two “eggs” to a section. Highly recommended: poke eight holes in each section ahead of time.
2. Allow students to decorate their egg carton using crayons or markers, and glitter if you’re feeling extra adventurous.
3. Let children select colors of pipe cleaners, and help them work the pipe cleaners through the pre-poked holes.
4. Add google eyes and an extra string “web”, if you like.
5. Possible caption: Don’t be scared...it’s another one of God’s creations! 😊



Craft Four: “Leaf garland”

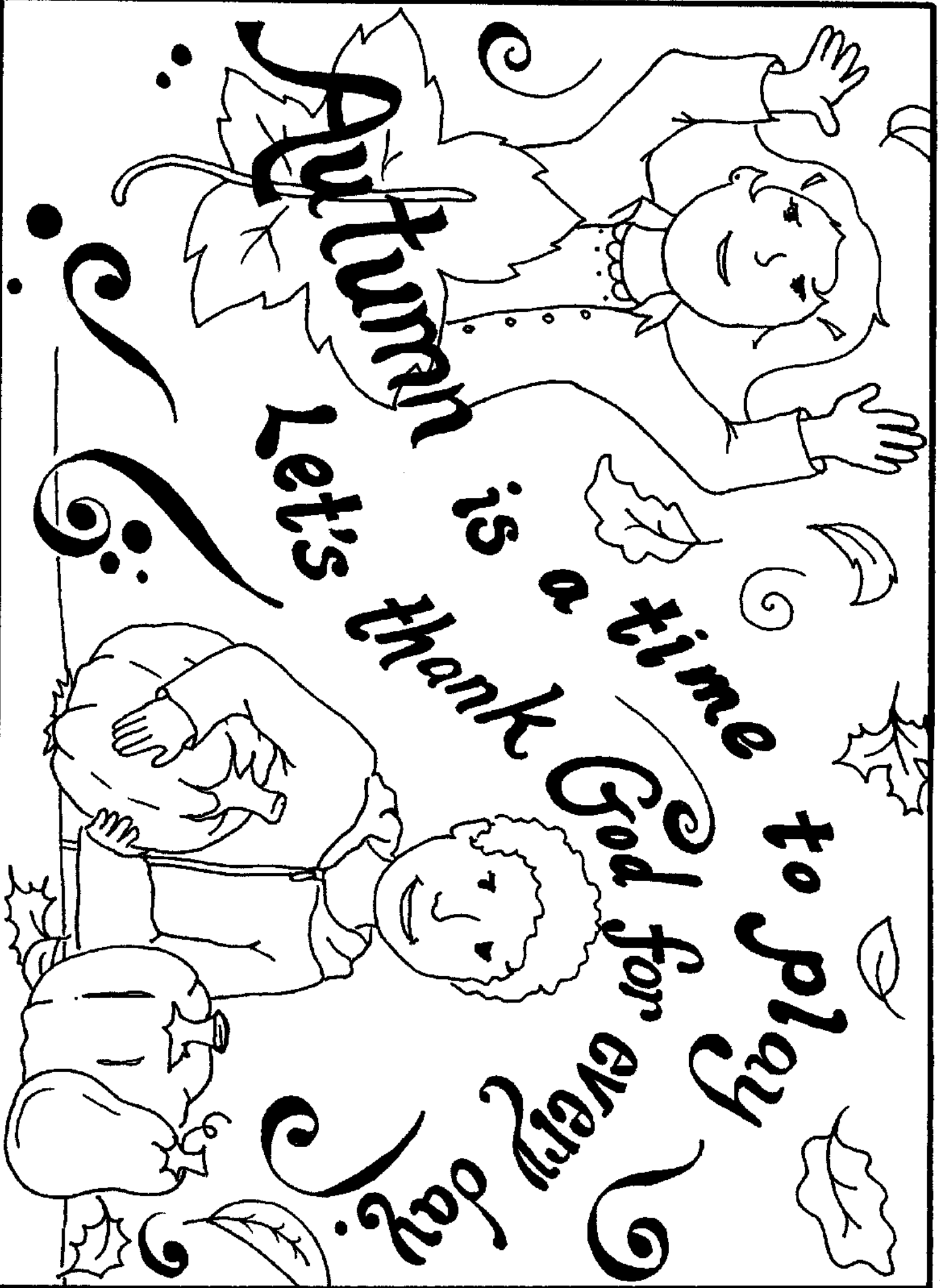
You will need:

- Beads (optional)
- Fall decorative leaves (foam or cloth)
- Ribbon/string or pipe cleaner
- Scissors

Procedure:

1. Have students select several leaves and a pipe cleaner or string.
2. Cut small slits or holes into the leaves, in order to fit onto the pipe cleaner.
3. Help children string the leaves onto the pipe cleaner. Add beads or other decorations as desired. Attach a verse or caption, if you wish.
4. Use the leaf garlands as decorations, bracelets, or even crowns!





Autumn

Let's

is a time to play
God for every day

Autumn Themed Craft Ideas

 ministry-to-children.com/autumn-themed-craft-ideas

Mimi
Bullock

August 28,
2012



Children's teachers welcome their kids back to the classrooms in a number of ways but a fun craft is my favorite. When autumn rolls around I get excited. Not simply because it is my favorite season but because there are so many

great scriptures to share about the harvest. My kids have "regular" teachers five days a week and I only get them once, twice if I'm lucky. I like to lead children into quiet conversations over crafts not make them sit at desks and raise their hands. I've plundered my favorites folder and pulled up my four autumn-themed craft ideas—you can use them too. They are inexpensive and all the parts are easy to find.

Corn craft: This craft is not recommended for nursery and small children as they might be tempted to swallow the corn kernels. I print a [large corn on the cob](#) off on green paper. If you have a small class and like to draw, you could just draw the cobs on the paper. Give each child a handful of raw, dried corn to glue to their paper cobs. A good scripture to use with this craft is Matthew 9:38, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers

into his harvest field.” Explain to the kids that the souls of people are like these corn kernels. There are many that we can harvest for God.

Handprint wreaths: This interactive craft makes a good keepsake too. Have the child place his hand on construction paper and trace it nine times. Use autumnal colors like dark green, yellow, red and brown. The child then cuts the hands out with safety scissors and glues them to the rim of a paper plate. Talk about Psalm 50:14. “Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High.” Here is something similar on [Pinterest](#).

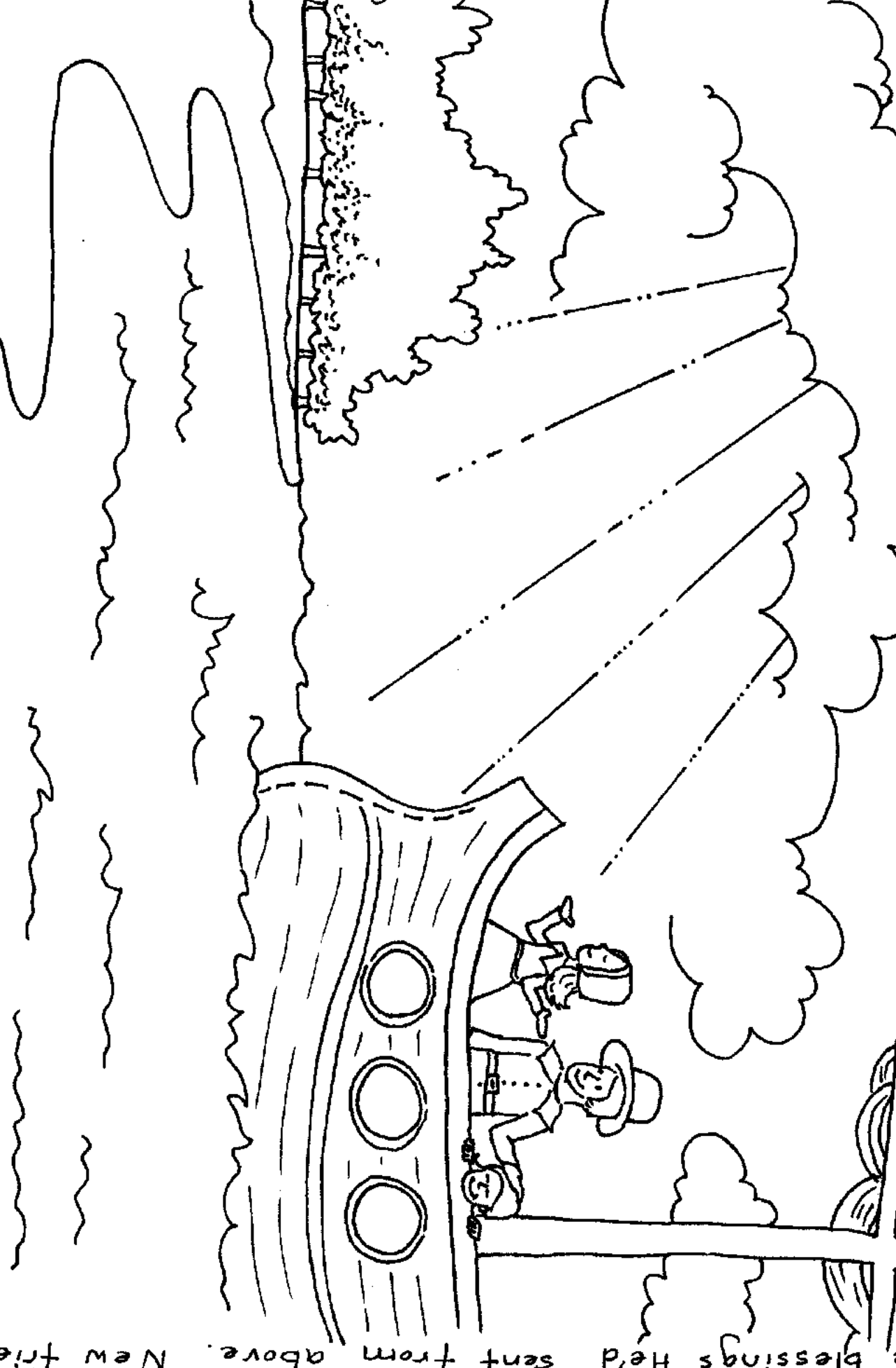
Wall cornucopia: Before the kids arrive in your classroom, tape a large brown paper cornucopia to a wall. Print several [vegetable & fruit shapes](#) in different colors like potatoes, corn and tomatoes. You could even include leaf and sunflower shapes. Tell children to write what they are thankful for on a paper fruit or vegetable. Some examples could be: my parents, my home or good treats. Fill the cornucopia with paper fruits and vegetables, taping them to the paper.

Autumnal hand puppets: Paper bags are perfect for making hand puppets. Let kids dress up bags with bits of yarn, buttons and crayons. Tell them to give the puppets a fall theme. Scarecrows and talking pumpkins make funny puppets. Here is some inspiration from [Google](#).

You can also [search Pinterest](#) for more craft ideas with an Autumn theme. Leave a [comment](#) below to share you favorite ideas for children’s ministry crafts in the Fall.

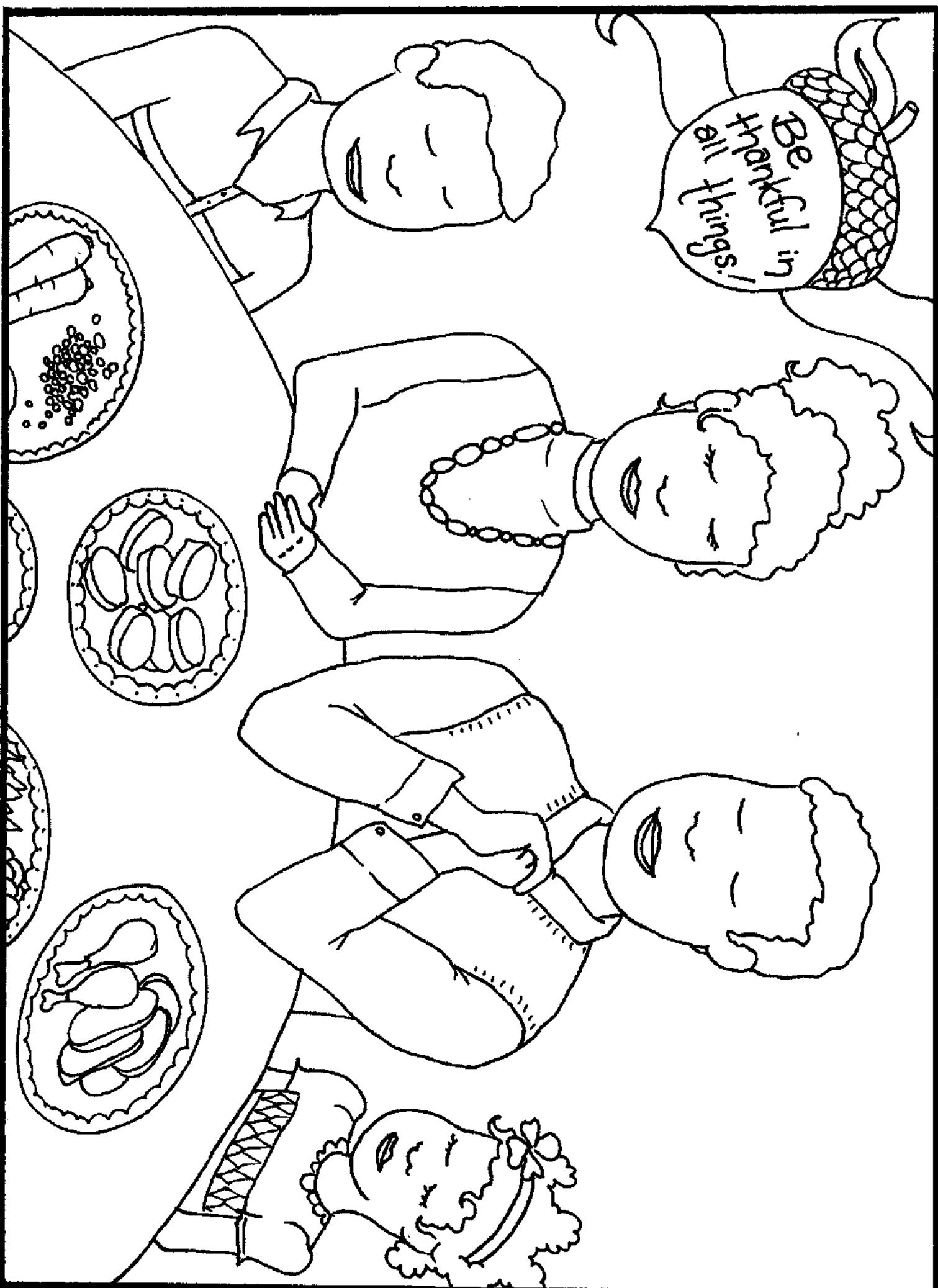
The pilgrims were thankful to God for his love; for all of

the blessings He'd sent from above. One who had given them life!

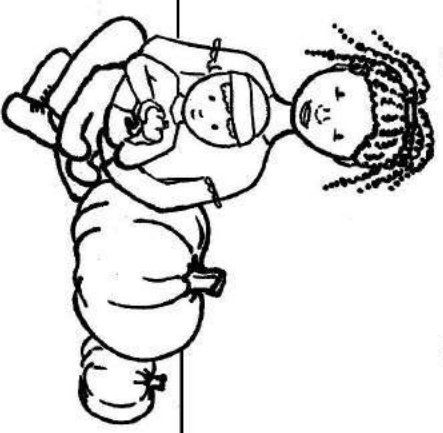
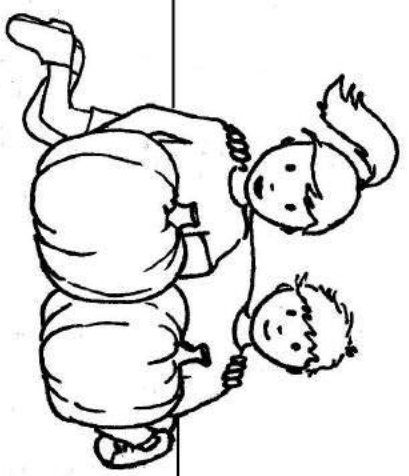
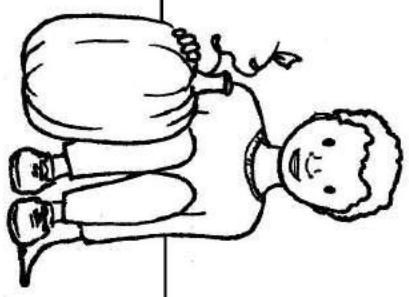
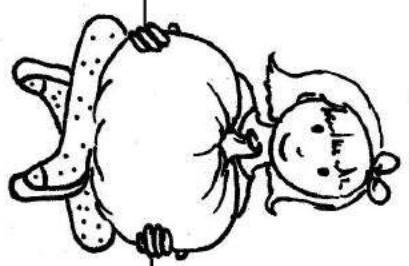


many lessons, such hardship and strife... they rejoiced to the

Be thankful in
all things!



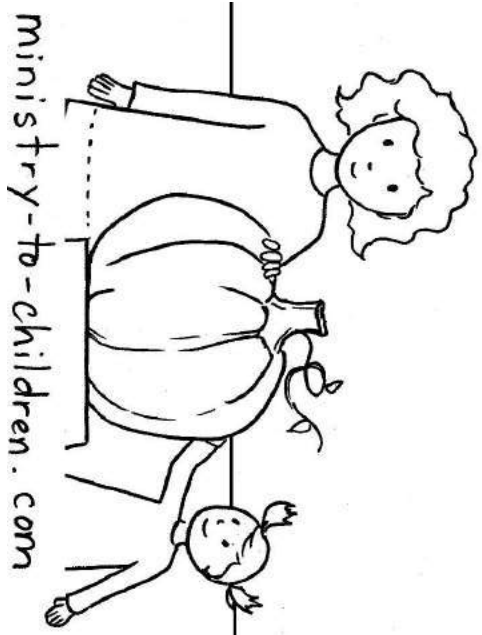
May you be strengthened with all power according to this glorious might,



for all endurance and patience with joy,

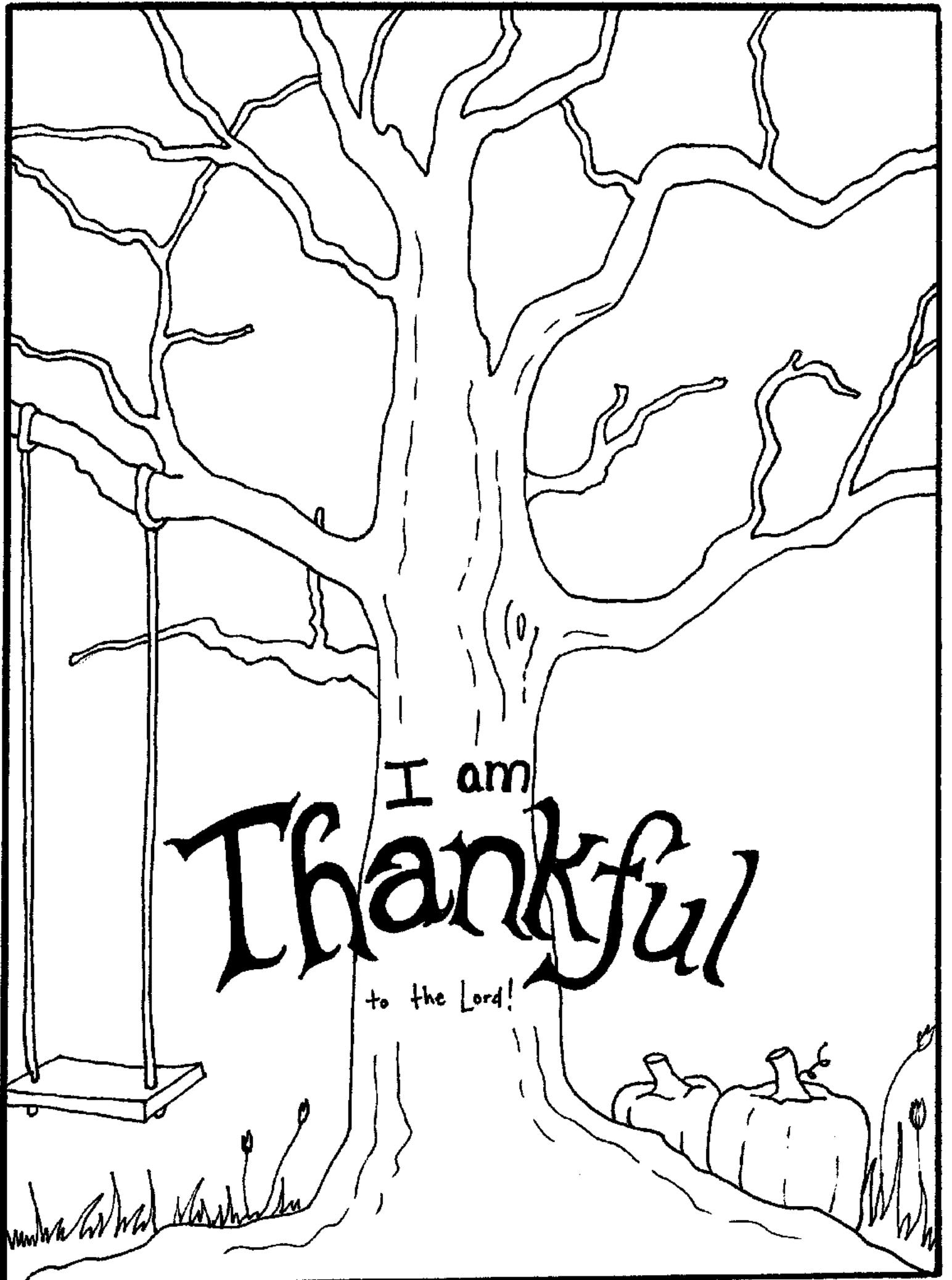
giving thanks

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



ministry-to-children.com

Mandy Greer '19



I am
Thankful
to the Lord!





This lesson was prepared by [Kristin Schmidt](#), who serves at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO.

She has shared her teaching gifts through *Ministry-To-Children* since 2014 and now serves as our lead curriculum writer.

Kristin has a professional background in elementary and pre-school education. A graduate of Biola University, she holds a Master of Education and will receive the Master of Theology degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, in May 2020. Kristin grew up in southern California and lived the past 10 years in Georgia. She is a long-distance runner and voracious reader.

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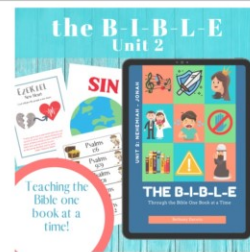
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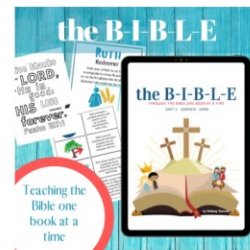
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