

Express Recipe for a Great Thanksgiving Dinner



Prep time: Depends on the condition of your heart. Allow plenty of time.

Serves: Everyone at the table.

1. **Begin your dinner preparation** at least a day ahead of time by making a list of every person you'll be with on Thanksgiving. Find a quiet spot and invite Jesus to sit with you as you go over the list.
2. One-by-one, **picture each person** and imagine greeting him or her. Can you do so with love—free of judgment, hurt, or expectation? If not, ask Jesus what is blocking you. If it's unforgiveness, forgive the person or people specifically for how they have hurt you.

All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

--2 Corinthians 4:15 (NLT)

3. **Picture yourself** at the Thanksgiving gathering free of unforgiveness and judgment. Ask Jesus what He has for you to bring to the party.
 - Is it love that never fails, that never gives up on people (1 Corinthians 13:8)?
 - Is it a basket of encouragement—words to be spoken from your heart as you interact with people?
 - Is it a few turkey jokes* to pull out if the conversation turns negative or someone dominates the discussion?What does Jesus have for you and your gathering?

4. When you are at your Thanksgiving get-together, sometime during the gathering, **thank God** for one way each person has blessed you or for something they have taught you. Then pray a silent blessing over each one.

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them (1 Timothy 2:1 NLT).

*Turkey Jokes:

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| 1. Q: If you call a large turkey a gobbler, what do you call a small one? | A: A goblet. |
| 2. Q: Who is not hungry at Thanksgiving? | A: The turkey because he is already stuffed! |
| 3. Q: Why did the turkey cross the road twice? | A: To prove he wasn't chicken. |

Bonus Jokes:

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| 4. Q: What smells the best at a Thanksgiving dinner? | A: Your nose. |
| 5. Q: Why do pilgrims' pants always fall down? | A: Because they wear their belt buckle on their hat. |
| 6. Knock Knock. (Who's there?)
Norma Lee. (Norma Lee who?)
Norma Lee I don't eat this much! | |