

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, go through the forgiveness exercise in *Welcome to The Father's House* (pages 113-116) or in prayer, forgive people specifically for how they have hurt you. We express our gratitude to God through forgiveness (2 Corinthians 4:15).

If the block is a spirit sent from the enemy to create fear and disunity, don't give it the opportunity to do so. Perhaps it's a spirit of accusation, rejection, expectation, or self-protection. Perhaps it's words that go through your mind such as, "He drives me crazy!" or "She really has never liked me."

With Jesus by your side, take your thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:5), rein them in, and replace them with Jesus' perspective. Use the 1-2-3 Skedaddle tool, filling in the blanks with the name of the spirit causing disunity or the negative words that go through your mind.

- *I nail _____ to the cross.*
- *I break all agreements I've made with _____, known or unknown, and I repent of joining with _____.*
- *Jesus, I ask You to send _____ away from me.*
- *Now, Jesus, what do you give me in place of _____?*
- *With the block removed, ask Jesus to give you His heart for the person.*

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 He 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:

1. Q: Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? A: The outside
2. Q: What's the best way to stuff a turkey? A: Serve him lots of pizza and ice cream!

Bonus Jokes:

3. Q: What smells the best at a Thanksgiving dinner? A: Your nose.
4. Q: What kind of music did the Pilgrims like? A: Plymouth Rock
5. Q: Why do pilgrims' pants always fall down? A: Because they wear their belt buckle on their hat.