

Don't Miss God's Gift of Fall

Lori Campbell

Fall is a wonderful time of year! The cool weather always seems to bring a fresh excitement and enthusiasm. Fall refreshes us after the hot days of summer and blesses us with beautiful colors, wonderful fruits and vegetables, and thoughts of special family gatherings to come. However, fall also seems to fill our calendars and quicken our lives with a frenzied pace. We must be careful not to miss God's gift of fall!

The best way to savor God's gift of fall is to plan some special fall family fun. Fall is a wonderful season for enjoying family activities indoors and outdoors. Use these ideas to savor fall with your family.

- **Make fall wreaths.** Take your family on a nature walk outdoors. Carry a bag and gather fall nature items. Take the items home and place them on the table or floor. Cut out the center of a paper plate. Glue the nature items around the plate to make a wreath. Family members may want to make individual wreaths. Or maybe your family would rather use a piece of poster board or cardboard to make one large wreath. Display the wreath on your front door or in another place in your home. Pray together, thanking God for fall.
- **Rake leaves.** Purchase a toy rake for your preschooler. On a beautiful fall day invite your child to help rake leaves into piles. Watch him jump into the pile of leaves! As you stuff the leaves into trash bags, stop and look at the beautiful leaf colors. Observe insects among the leaves. Talk about the trees from

which the leaves came. Mention that God's plan is for trees to shed their leaves to get ready for winter. Look for signs of animals preparing for winter, such as birds flying south or squirrels gathering nuts.

- **Visit a pumpkin patch.** Make the search for the perfect pumpkin an exciting family event! Measure and weigh your pumpkin. Gather colorful leaves and invite your child to glue them around the base of the pumpkin to make a fall centerpiece. Buy some canned pumpkin and bake pumpkin bread or muffins. Talk about how wonderful the muffins smell and taste. Thank God for the wonderful things He has made.
- **Make a "Thank You, God" booklet.** Talk with your child about God's constant care and the many things He gives us. Begin by naming things for which you are thankful, then ask your child to name things for which she is thankful. Make photos or find magazine pictures of the things your child mentions. Help your child tape or glue the pictures onto construction paper pages and staple them together to form a booklet. She may enjoy using crayons, markers, and fall stickers to decorate the pages. Pray with your child, thanking God for the items featured in the book.

Slow down, savor the moment, and thank God for His beautiful gift of fall.

Lori Campbell attends Pleasant Heights Baptist Church in Columbia, TN.