

# Give Thanks!

## PREPARING AND SHARING YOUR HEART AT THANKSGIVING

### INSTRUCTIONS

#### Getting Ready

1. Print the following pages.
2. Fill in the names of each of your Thanksgiving guests on the Sharing Your Heart Page.
3. Cut along the dotted lines of the *Preparing Your Heart* (story) pages and the *Sharing Your Heart* pages.
4. Place the cards in two separate bowls or baskets.

#### Preparing and Sharing Your Heart Activity

1. Have every guest choose two cards; one card from each bowl. Ask them to take a moment to write on the Sharing Your Heart card why they are thankful for the person listed on their card, and what event in the past year they are thankful for.
2. **Preparing Your Heart with the Thanksgiving Story**  
Have the guests read their story cards out loud, one at a time, to tell the Thanksgiving Story. The picture on the card is the clue for the story order. Ask the guest who has the picture of the *Mayflower* ship to read their card first. The Story order is as follows:
  1. *Ship*
  2. *Pilgrim Hat*
  3. *Stormy Ocean*
  4. *Paper and Quill*
  5. *Crown*
  6. *House in Winter*
  7. *Corn*
  8. *Bow and Arrow*
  9. *Cornucopia and Vegetables*
  10. *Turkey*
  11. *Empty Plate*
  12. *Pilgrim Family*
3. **Sharing Your Heart with Your Thankfulness Story**  
When you finish the Thanksgiving Story, have each guest take a turn reading what they wrote on their "I am thankful..." card.

*Sharing Your Heart*  
at **THANKSGIVING**

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BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

I AM THANKFUL FOR THIS EVENT

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## *The Mayflower*

In September of 1620, 70 English men and women and 32 children set sail from Plymouth, England for America on a small ship called the *Mayflower*. The captain of the *Mayflower* was Christopher Jones. Another captain on board the *Mayflower* was Captain Myles Standish. He was a military captain who played an important role in helping the Pilgrims survive in America.



## *The Pilgrims*

Today we call these brave men and women Pilgrims, although they did not call themselves that. William Bradford, the second governor of the colony they formed, used the term "pilgrims" years later when he wrote: "they knew they were pilgrims" and he referenced Hebrews 11:13-16. Then, as now, "pilgrim" meant someone on a journey with a religious or moral purpose. The Pilgrims left England because King James would not allow them to worship God as they desired.



## *The Long Journey*

The journey across the Atlantic Ocean was stormy and dangerous. The storms blew the ship off course, so the voyage was longer than expected - more than 7 weeks. During the journey, two people died - a sailor and a passenger; and a baby was born. The baby was a boy, and they named him Oceanus Hopkins. The *Mayflower* finally reached America at Cape Cod on November 11, 1620. The Pilgrims had planned to start a colony in Virginia but settled in New England.



## *The First Laws*

Before the Pilgrims went ashore, they made an agreement to obey all laws created for the common good of the colony. A colony is formed when a group of people leave their country to establish a settlement in a new land. The men committed to abide by the laws of the colony and signed the agreement. Years later, it was named the *Mayflower Compact*. They elected John Carver as the first governor to lead the colony.



## *The Mayflower Compact*

"In ye name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyall subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, Franc, and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc.

Haveing undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancemente of ye Christian faith, and honour of our king & countrie, a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God, and one of another, covenant & combine our selves together into a civill body politick, for our better ordering & preservation & furtherance of ye ends aforesaid; and by vertue hearof to enacte lawes, ordinances, acts constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet & convenient for ye generall good of ye Colonie, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witnes wherof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-Codd ye 11th. of November, in ye year of ye raigne of our soveraigne lord, King James, of England, France, & Ireland ye eighteenth, and of Scotland, ye fiftie fourth. Ano: Dom. 1620."



## *Settling at Plymouth*

After exploring Cape Cod for several weeks, the Pilgrims decided to settle at Plymouth. On Christmas Day, they began to build a Common House for everyone to use. It was very hard work. It was cold and the ground was frozen. Many of the Pilgrims became ill with fever and coughs. Half of the colony died that first winter, including Governor John Carver and little Oceanus Hopkins.



## *Persevering at Plymouth*

In April of 1621, the *Mayflower*, including Captain Jones and the crew, returned to England. The Pilgrims could have returned home with the ship but bravely chose to stay in America. There were only about 50 Pilgrims left, and over half were children. They worked hard to clear the land, build homes and plant corn from kernels that the Indians had given them, along with barley and peas.



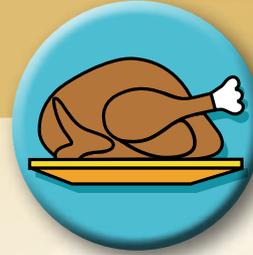
## *The Wampanoag Indians*

Wampanoag (*Wam-pa-NA-ak*) means "People of the first light." The Wampanoag Indians lived in the area surrounding Plymouth. They lived in long, narrow, bark-covered houses called *wetus*. They stored seed and corn in woven bags in the ground. The Pilgrims found the seed and corn and used it. The Wampanoag Indians and their leader Massasoit began to communicate, trade and build friendships with the Pilgrims.



## The Harvest Celebration

Fall of 1621 marked the first harvest of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. The Pilgrims had very little to eat the first winter at Plymouth. They were excited to have a good harvest and plenty to eat for the second winter. To celebrate the harvest of plenty that God had abundantly provided, they planned a 3-day feast. Chief Massasoit arrived at the feast with more than 90 Indians! So many Indians came that they sent out a hunting party for more meat.



## A Letter About the Feast

Edward Winslow wrote a letter describing the feast. It is fun to read because they spelled a little differently back then! (Hint: sometimes an f should be an s.)

... N G L A N D, &c.  
... our harvest being gotten in, our Governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a more speciall manner reioyce together, after we had gathered the fruit of our labours; they foure in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Armes, many of the *Indians* coming amongst vs, and amongst the rest their greatest King *Majajaw*, with some ninie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted. and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour, and vpon the Captaine, and others. And although it be not alwayes so plentifull, as it was at this time with vs, yet by the goodnetle of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plentie.



## Food at the Feast

The celebration feast in 1621, included fowl and deer. Fowl are birds, and might have included ducks, geese or turkey. The Wampanoag and English did occasionally stuff birds so there might have been stuffing. Potatoes were not available then, but pumpkin and squash were native to New England. However, they did not have pumpkin pie! Other vegetables and herbs possibly prepared for the feast include parsnips, corn, carrots, turnips, cabbages, sage, thyme, and onions. Fruits may have included dried blueberries, cranberries and grapes.



## Celebrating Thanksgiving

The abundance of God's provision that Fall, and the desire to share the bounty with others, celebrate and give thanks for the abundance is described in a letter written by Edward Winslow. His final comment is the sentiment for which Americans celebrate Thanksgiving today: "And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

In America, today, it may not always be as plentiful as we like but we are far from want. For that and more, we too should be thankful. What are you thankful for this year?