

## **Family Activities for the Crucifixion**

### **Activity 1: Thankfulness bowl**

The cross is the greatest example we have of God for us! Take time as a family to read the story of the crucifixion (see devo for this week for references), and Romans 8:31-39 and together, thank God together for sending Christ as a perfect sacrifice for sin.

Next, cut up strips of paper (use strips of one-sided wrapping paper if you want this to look festive!) and give to each family member along with a writing utensil. Place a bowl, wide vase, or jar in the middle of the table. Little family members may need larger pieces of paper to draw a picture or assistance with writing. As a family, think back over 2020. Holidays, challenges, joys, all of it. (Tip: pull out your phone or camera and go through photos from January on to give you reminders). At each significant point, write down what you are thankful for. How was God for you this year? How did you see His character? His faithfulness, His provision, His comfort, His good gifts? What promises did you cling to that you are thankful you know? What did you learn, how did you grow? Even in the hard things, write down what you are thankful for. Now fold it up and put it in the bowl. At the end of the year timeline mix up all the papers and take turns picking a piece of paper out and reading it aloud.

At the end of this time, where you had the chance to hear each other's hearts, hear perspective you may not have considered, and rejoice in how you've seen God this year, take time to pray together to thank God for His faithfulness and goodness to us.

### **Activity 2: Take up Your Cross**

Read Luke 9:23 together.

Consider the cost Christ endured for us in going to the cross. Now consider the cost of being a follower of Him. Answer the questions in the devotional about where you need to be surrendered to God in your life. What steps do you need to practically take to turn from following your own desires and glory over His?

[Watch this video](#) from Pastor Larry about this Scripture.

Christ sacrificed all on our behalf. We are called to live sacrificially as well. For each family member, take time to consider what you have to offer that would

come at a cost to you, but would bring glory to God and serve your neighbor well.

This may sacrificing:

- Your Time
- Your Finances or Material Goods
- Your Gifts/Talents

Challenge yourself to give what would be a sacrifice to you – not to give out of your comfort, but to give out of your comfort zone.

- Bonus: Find ways you can sacrificially serve for the 12 days of Christmas – how do you keep this season continuing to point to Christ's bright light?