

Apples to Share

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Many families pick apples during the fall. You may pick from your own tree, from a tree in the yard of a friend or family member, or at a commercial apple orchard. Plan for your fun fall excursion to be an opportunity to serve others.

For
Young Family

Season

Fall

Needed

A place to pick apples—your own apple tree, an apple tree in the yard of a friend or family member, or a nearby orchard (to find an apple orchard in the U.S. or Canada, visit [Listing of Apple Orchards](#) or look in your local newspaper); Apple Picking worksheet (see last page); pencil; ingredients for making the apple dessert you choose; optional: plain paper, markers.

Prepare in Advance

Make a copy of the Apple Picking worksheet. Plan to complete it before you leave to pick apples.

Activity Plan

1. Gather the family. Tell your children you're thinking of a fruit that is red or green, juicy, and starts with an "A." Can they guess what it is? An apple! Invite family members to tell about their favorite kind of apple.
2. Read aloud Psalm 85:12:

Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
3. Pray aloud:
Gracious God, you give us all of our food, from apples to zucchini! Thank you for the earth, trees, fruits, vegetables, and all your blessings. Help us to share your gifts with others. Amen.
4. Talk together about how farmers plant seeds and take care of their apple trees and other crops, and how God makes the food grow by providing sunshine, rain, good soil, and all the things necessary to turn small apple seeds into delicious fruit to eat.
5. Discuss together the questions on the Apple Picking worksheet. Have an older child or adult record your answers. As you discuss for whom to make an apple dessert, it may help to ask: Is there someone we can thank? Someone who is lonely or sad? A new neighbor or new friend? Discuss what you want to say to them when you deliver the apple treat.

6. On the designated day, go apple picking. As you walk to the tree(s), remind your children of the Bible verse (Psalm 85:12): "Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase."
7. Have fun together as you enjoy God's creation and harvesting apples.
8. After you return home, or in the next few days, make the apple dessert for the person or family you chose.
9. Practice what you will say when you deliver the dessert.

Variation: Ask children to make a card or drawing to express your family's thoughts. Encourage them to include Psalm 85:12: "Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase."

10. Before you leave to deliver the dessert, pray aloud:

Dear God, thank you for the harvest of apples and all the food you give us. Thank you for our family time at the orchard and in the kitchen. Please bless (name of recipient) as we serve them this dessert. May they know your love through our gift. Amen.



Apple Picking



Will we pick apples from our tree or the tree of a friend or family member, or at an apple orchard?

When will we go to pick apples? How many days is that from today?

Who will pick apples with us?

For whom will we make an apple dessert with some of the apples we pick? What will we make?

When will we give it to them?

What will we say when we give it to them?

For example:

- Our family was thinking of you when we went apple picking.
 - Thank you for ...
 - We want to give you this apple dessert because ...
 - Welcome to [our neighborhood, our church, our school]
 - We made this for you because you make our lives sweet when you ...

Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. (Psalm 85:12)

