

Thankful Pick-up Sticks

In everything give thanks. ---1Thessalonians 5:18

Fall is a time when we start thinking about being thankful. But it is much more than just Thanksgiving.

Being thankful requires thought and intentionality. It is not necessarily the first reaction we have in a situation. Today we are going to practice thinking about things we are thankful for by playing a familiar game (with a twist.)

Thankful Pick-up Sticks is a fun family game that combines the classic dexterity game of pick-up sticks with a gratitude activity.

How to Make the Game

- **Materials:** Grab 20 to 40 wooden craft sticks, chopsticks, or colorful plastic straws.
- **Color Coding:** Paint or color the ends of the sticks using different shades.
- **Categories:** Assign a specific thankfulness prompt to each color:
 - **Red:** Name a person you are thankful for.
 - **Yellow or Orange:** Name a place you are thankful for.
 - **Blue:** Name a thing you are thankful for.
 - **Green:** Name anything you are thankful for.
 - **Purple:** Name a choice or anything of your choice.

How to Play

1. **Drop the Sticks:** Hold all the sticks in your hand and let them drop randomly onto a table or floor.
2. **Draw a Stick:** Players take turns trying to pull a single stick from the pile without moving any other sticks.
3. **Share Gratitude:** Once you successfully collect a stick, look at its color and share something you are grateful for based on that category
4. **Turns and Rules:** If you accidentally bump or move another stick while drawing, you lose your turn and do not keep the stick.
5. **Winning:** The player who collects the most sticks by the end of the game wins

Keep track of the things you are thankful for. Say a prayer about each thing.

<https://teachbesideme.com/gratitude-game-pick-sticks/>