

# Holiday Helps

Ideas for Elementary Classrooms

Create this fun place mat and add to the list of blessings each time you use sit down to eat a meal.

## Thank You Place Mat

### What You'll Need

- 12" x 18" construction paper
- 9" x 12" construction paper (contrasting colors)
- scissors
- markers
- stickers
- glue or tape
- optional: photo; clear, self-adhesive paper

### What to Do

1. Fold in half a 12" x 18" sheet of construction paper. Starting at the fold, mark off 1" strips, stopping 1" from the open edges. With the paper still folded in half, cut the strips.

From a contrasting color of construction paper, cut paper strips that are 1" x 12". Open the 12" x 18" paper and weave the 1" strips in and out of the slits. When finished weaving, glue the loose ends of the 1" strips to the place mat.

2. Cut a large pumpkin shape from construction paper. Using a contrasting color of paper, cut a second pumpkin a little smaller than the first one. If you have a photo available, cut a window opening in the smaller shape. Glue the picture between the two pumpkin shapes. Cover the entire shape with clear self-adhesive covering to protect the picture. Apply glue around the edges on the back of the pumpkin shape and attach to the woven place mat, leaving the top open to form a pocket.
3. Add stickers or write on the place mat things for which you are thankful. Make a thankful place mat for each member of your family. As you enjoy a meal together, talk about all the blessings you have—and thank God for those blessings!

### Another Idea!

Make a set of place mats as a gift for grandparents. Grandparents will love seeing the picture of their grandchild each time they sit down to dinner!

