

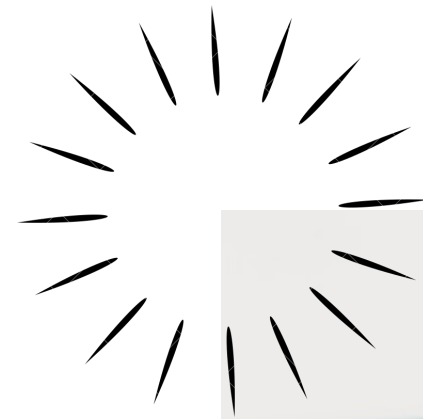
Guide
to Getting
the Most
Out of
Fall

A Fall Prayer

BY EMMA DANZEY

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Let's
Pray



Dear Creator of All,

Thank you for the beautiful changes that are coming. Thank you for the crisp fall air, the colorful unveiling of your glory, the harvest of many fruits and vegetables, and the finale of your year-long process. As we reflect on Your goodness today, thank You for the season that reminds us that You make all things new. Thank you for the time of year that brings coolness, abundance, and bright colors.

As I look at your creation through nature, would You remind me of Your glory? Reveal to me Your power and Your grace. No matter what I am going through in this time, help me to open my eyes to see the visual that You are working and are not done with me. I confess the areas of sin and darkness in my life. Help me Holy Spirit to be renewed by You day by day. I lay down my agenda. I lay down my plans for what life should look like and entrust myself to you. Just as you make the trees look more beautiful than before, Your plans and your ways are higher than my own.

You say in Psalm 104:19, "He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down." You are the One who created the moon to reveal the season. Different times of year have different lengths of days for a reason. Different seasons have different temperatures and beauties about them. Fall is such a lively and exciting time of celebration and life. Help my soul to join in with the praise from nature, worshiping You, the Creator.



Continued

Jesus, You celebrated the feast of trumpets, the day of atonement, and the feast of tabernacles during this season of fall.

These were times of repentance, forgiveness, joy, and celebration. As we stand on this side of the cross and resurrection, may we not forget the work that You have done on behalf of all who accept You as Savior Jesus. We pray that we would allow You to examine our hearts and refine any areas that need to be made more like You. Help us to be reminded of this in this season of the saving grace of Christ. Help us to remember that we have been given such forgiveness and identity in You.

Lord, the leaves that are turning are dying and becoming more beautiful. Would this be a visual reminder to me to die to myself, pick up my cross, and follow You each day? To live is Christ, to die is gain. Help me to not live by my flesh but by the Spirit so that others can see You. I pray my life would be an aroma of You. May others see my actions and hear my words and know that You are the Living God and You love them. Fall is also a time of slowing down. Father, would you enable me to remember to pace myself? Would you help me to find rest in You and strength to accomplish the tasks ahead with You? Help me to live out of a place of being secure in You.

Amen.

by Amanda
Idleman

15 COZY FALL DATE IDEAS

Go
Hiking or
Biking

Coffee and
Farmers
Market
Morning

Visit a
Fall
Festival

Take a
Fall-
Themed
Art Class

Fall
Picnic at
the Park

Enjoy an
Outdoor
Restaurant
Experience

Go
Apple
Picking

Go
Camping

Check
Out a
Rodeo

Visit a
Fair
Together

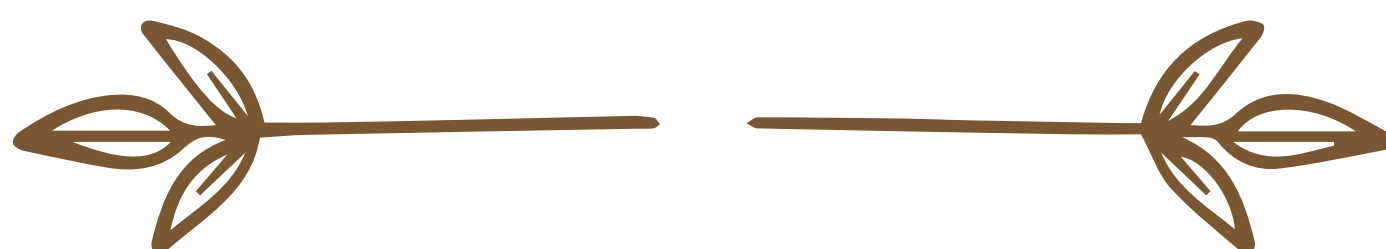
Check
Out Local
Gardens

Go to
the Zoo

Plan a
Movie
Night

Go to a
Drive-
Thru
Movie

Bake
Together



10 WAYS TO BLESS OTHERS THIS FALL

by: Amanda Idleman



Photo credit: ©GettyImages/IrynaImage

The Fall is beautiful, but it's also when our schedules tend to fill up, and our stress levels can start to rise. School, work, sick kids, sports, upcoming holidays, and more can feel like a heavy weight to wade through. This makes it the perfect season to pause for a moment to think of a sweet way to bless a friend or neighbor you know has a lot on their plate.

1. Send a Handwritten Note



Who doesn't love snail mail? For some reason, even though I rarely get fun mail, I still look forward to opening that mailbox and seeing what lies inside every evening. Grab some blank cards, add a thoughtful note of love and encouragement for a friend, and pop it in the mail. Recently I received a card just like this in the mail from an anonymous source.

The card included a note of encouragement and a gift card to my favorite coffee place, and it 100% made my day. I still have no idea who sent this thoughtful gift, but I am so thankful for their generosity.



2. Gift an Encouraging Book

I have learned so much about God through the writings of other amazing Christian authors. A few key books have helped me wade through the deep questions of my faith, encouraged me in dark seasons, or inspired me to take big leaps of faith. A few of the titles that have made a big impact on my spiritual journey include

The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner, Foster the Family by Jamie Finn, Miracles by Eric Metaxas, The Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren, One Thousand Gifts by Ann Voskamp, You and Me Forever by Francis and Lisa Chan, and Teaching from Rest by Sarah Mackenzie. There are more, but these are a few that stand out in my mind and have deeply challenged and encouraged my soul. When I have a friend I want to encourage, I love to give them one of the books that have encouraged my soul. God has often gifted others with the words we want our friends to hear, and books are a great way to send a hope-filled message to someone in your heart.

3. Gift a Dinner



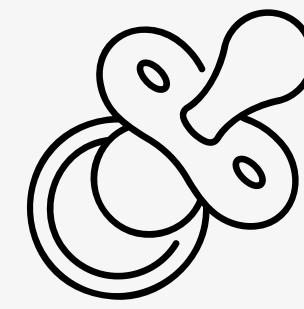
Choose a meal to cook for someone, a dinner date to go out and catch up with someone, or surprise a friend by covering their meal for them. Food should be the sixth love language! Sharing a meal means so much to people. Good food, conversation, and time with a friend is a lovely blessing to give to others!



4. Bake Something Yummy

Fall is the time of year we start baking all those amazing apple, cinnamon, and pumpkin treats! I love pumpkin cookies, pumpkin cheesecake, cinnamon rolls, apple pie, and the list could just go on and on! Put an extra batch of your favorite treat in the oven and deliver it to a friend or neighbor. Their bellies and hearts will be so happy.

5. Offer to Babysit



When life gets full, it's easy for couples with young kids to drift apart.

Date nights are crucial because sometimes they are the only uninterrupted time you have with your spouse in a week. My husband and I try to connect daily, but sometimes we are so exhausted at the end of the day that we can't even think. Date nights are life-giving to us while we navigate the chaos of raising four young kids. Gifting a night of free babysitting is a wonderful way to bless a couple and to sow into their kiddos.



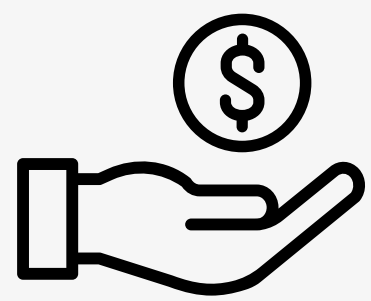
6. Pray with Others

When things get tough, we ask our friends to join in prayer for us. It's important that we pause and actually join with others to take the time to pray right then with them, so they know and hear our hearts for them. If praying out loud is intimidating, another great way to show them that you are really taking their request to the Lord is to write out a prayer for them and give it to them.

7. Take a Walk Together



For those of us who love quality time, long walks, coffee dates, play dates, and more are what fill up our souls. Fall is the perfect weather to spend quality outdoor time with friends and family. Remember, YOU are a blessing. Offering time, space, and a listening ear is a way to bless others.



8. Meet a Tangible Need

The holiday season is right around the corner; for many, this time of year can be very stressful. If you see a friend, neighbor, or community member with a tangible need and you have the means to meet it, you can take a tremendous amount of stress off their shoulders. When you know Christmas is around the corner, unexpected expenses in the Fall can compound the anxiety people experience during this season.

9. Rake Some Leaves

We live in a state filled with trees! As the seasons change, a lot of work goes into cleaning up and maintaining our yards. Help a neighbor, parent, or grandparent by helping clear those massive piles of leaves.



10. Drop Off an Unexpected Gift

Fall is the best time to gift flowers, desserts, chocolate, coffee, Fall themed decor, and fall drinks. When you come across something that reminds you of someone you love, get it for them and give them a gift "just because." They are sure to feel loved and seen by your generosity.

The Bible calls us to 'serve one another in love' (Galatians 5:13). Taking time to do something you know will bless others in your life is one great way to live out this verse. You can even apply these things to a stranger

God puts on your heart. Your unexpected kindness is a great way to display God's gracious love to the people we encounter on a daily basis.




15 Beautiful Fall Bible Verses

for the Autumn Season



Here is a collection of our favorite heart-warming Bible verses about autumn and harvest. These Scriptures are perfect a time reflection during the fall season leading up to Thanksgiving. Be inspired by the beautiful autumn aesthetic and the powerful Word of God. These fall Scripture quotes will evoke gratitude and hope in the Lord.



Compiled & edited by BST and
Crosswalk Staff



"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

Isaiah 40:8

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Luke 10:2

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

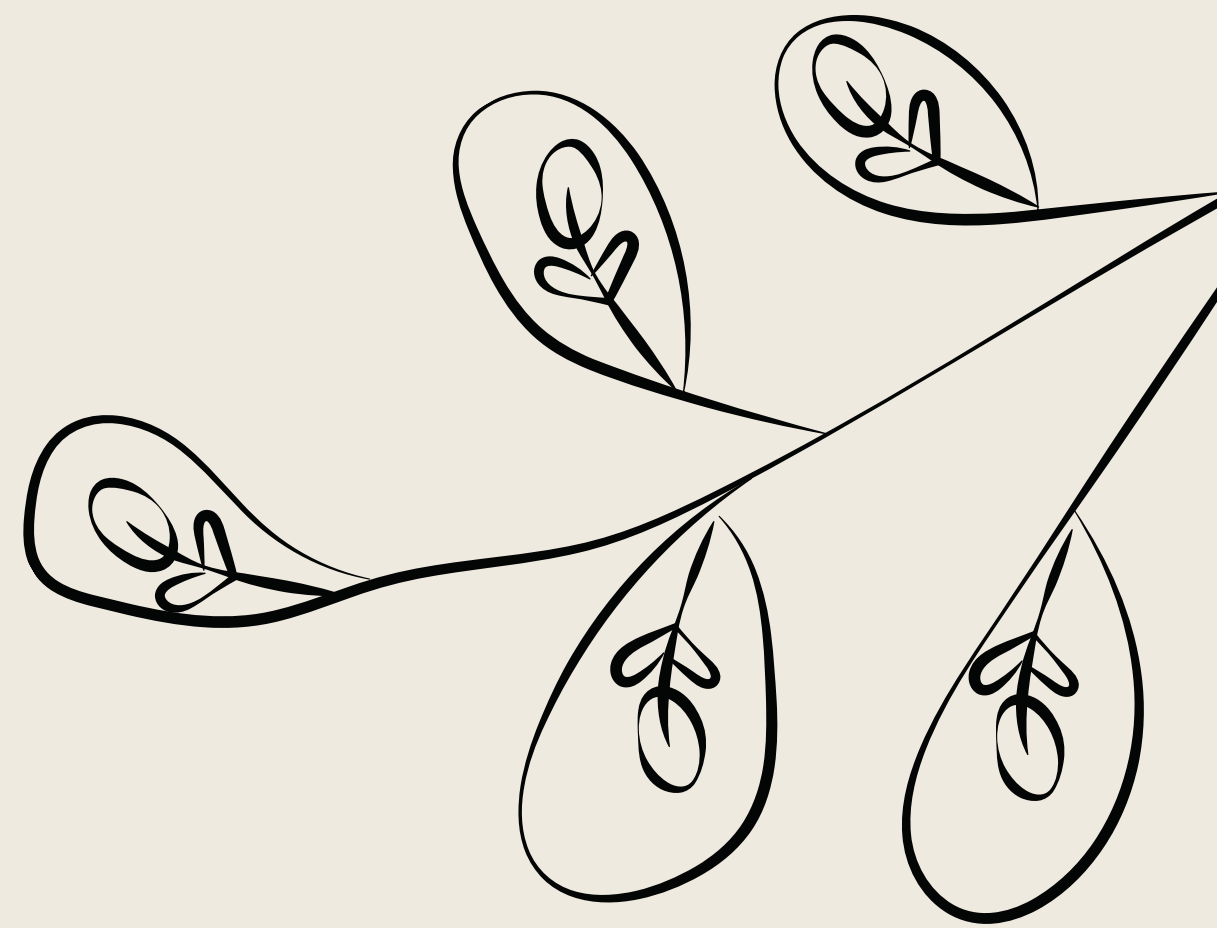
Ecclesiastes 3:11

"Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase."

Psalms 85:12

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

James 3:18



"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

2 Corinthians 9:6

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior."

Habbakuk 3:17-18

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains."

James 5:7

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."

Proverbs 3:9

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Matthew 6:26

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Hebrews 12:11





6 Cozy Reads for Fall

Photo Credit: © Unsplash/Ergita Sela

by: Sarah Nichols

This time of year brings change to weather and rhythms alike. Like many, fall is absolutely my favorite time of year. I love the scents, pumpkin-flavored coffees and food, and traditions as we usher in another season. I appreciate the universal warmth fall moves us to create in our hearts and homes alike. For me, this looks like lighting more candles, changing out throw blankets and pillows around the house, and decorating for the season. Hanging a new wreath on our front door and pulling out family-favorite comfort-food recipes. Setting out a basket of family favorite fall-themed picture books for our kids and re-reading some of my favorite books that accompany the season.

! The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

This historical novel takes place in January 1946, in the aftermath of World War II and the German occupation, when thirty-two-year-old Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger. Juliet is a writer, and this begins a witty and warm correspondence between her and a founding member of the society. Juliet ends up setting sail for Guernsey to conduct research for a book and meet members of the society. There, she is treated like an old friend, and her life is changed forever.

Books Continued...



2. Becoming Mrs. Lewis: The Improbable Love Story of Joy Davidman and C.S. Lewis

by Patti Callahan

Becoming Mrs. Lewis is told from Joy's perspective in a time when women weren't meant to have a voice. It explores her struggles and triumphs, retelling her adventures of traveling from America to England. It recalls how she encountered poverty, discovered friendship, faith, and found a beautiful love story.

3. Dear Mr. Knightley

by Katherine Reay

If you like Jane Austen and other classic literature, you will adore this contemporary epistolary novel. This book follows Samantha Moore, a bookish English major. This book is Katherine Reay's debut novel and is a beautiful story about friendship, trust, healing, and discovering one's true character.

4. Anne of Green Gables

by L.M. Montgomery

When I think of fall and cozy books, I think of Anne Shirley's description of this favorite season of mine from L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." This book is considered a classic, and Anne is one of my all-time favorite characters. Anne Shirley is an eleven-year-old orphan who, by mistake, is sent to middle-aged siblings Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, who specifically intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm, Green Gables. Instead, red-haired, freckled-face Anne Shirley is sent to them. Marilla is hesitant to keep Anne but, after a trial period, agrees to let her stay.

Books Continued...



5. The Lifegiving Home: Creating a Place of Belonging and Becoming

by Sally Clarkson and Sarah Clarkson

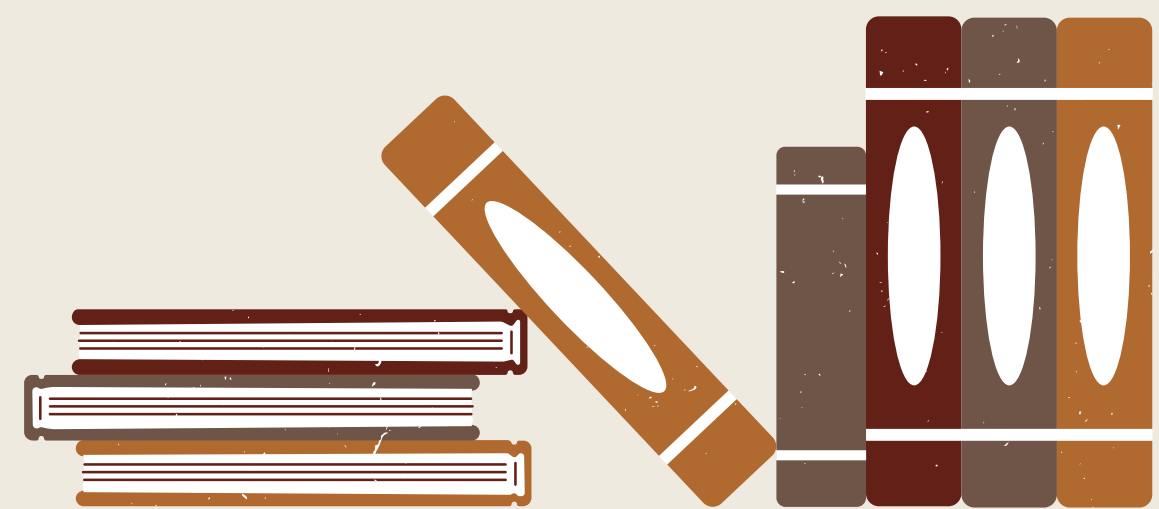
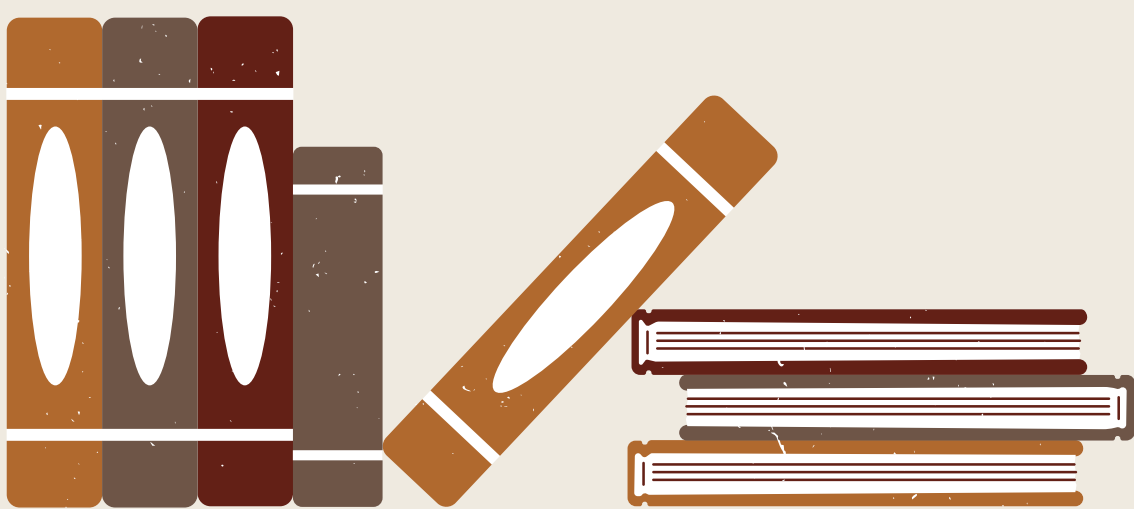
Sally Clarkson is the author of multiple books and mother of four. In *The Lifegiving Home*, Sally and her oldest daughter Sarah write about creating special memories with your children, establishing God-centered traditions, and cultivating a loving atmosphere your family will cherish. Fall is often the time of year we begin to reflect on the months that have flown by and long to savor the months we have left in it. I think it's the perfect non-fiction cozy read because this is when we look forward to traditions or eagerly start new ones.

6.

Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott

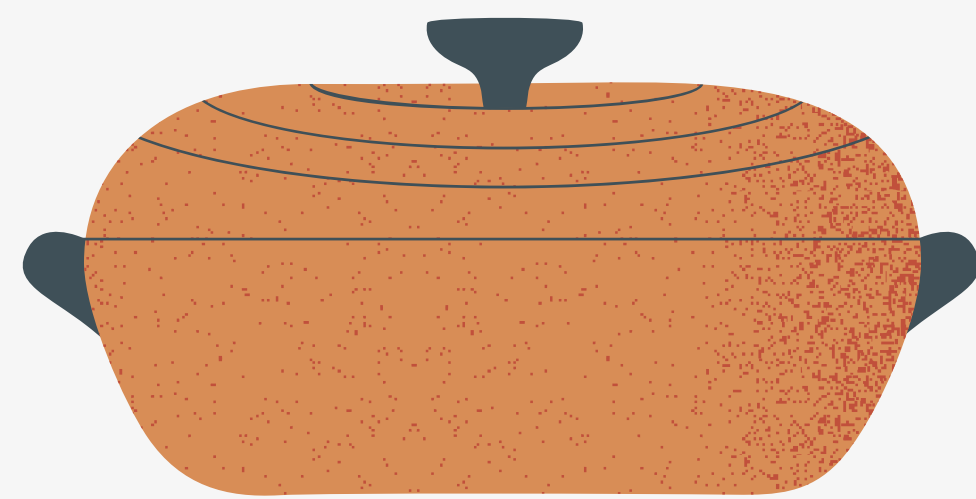
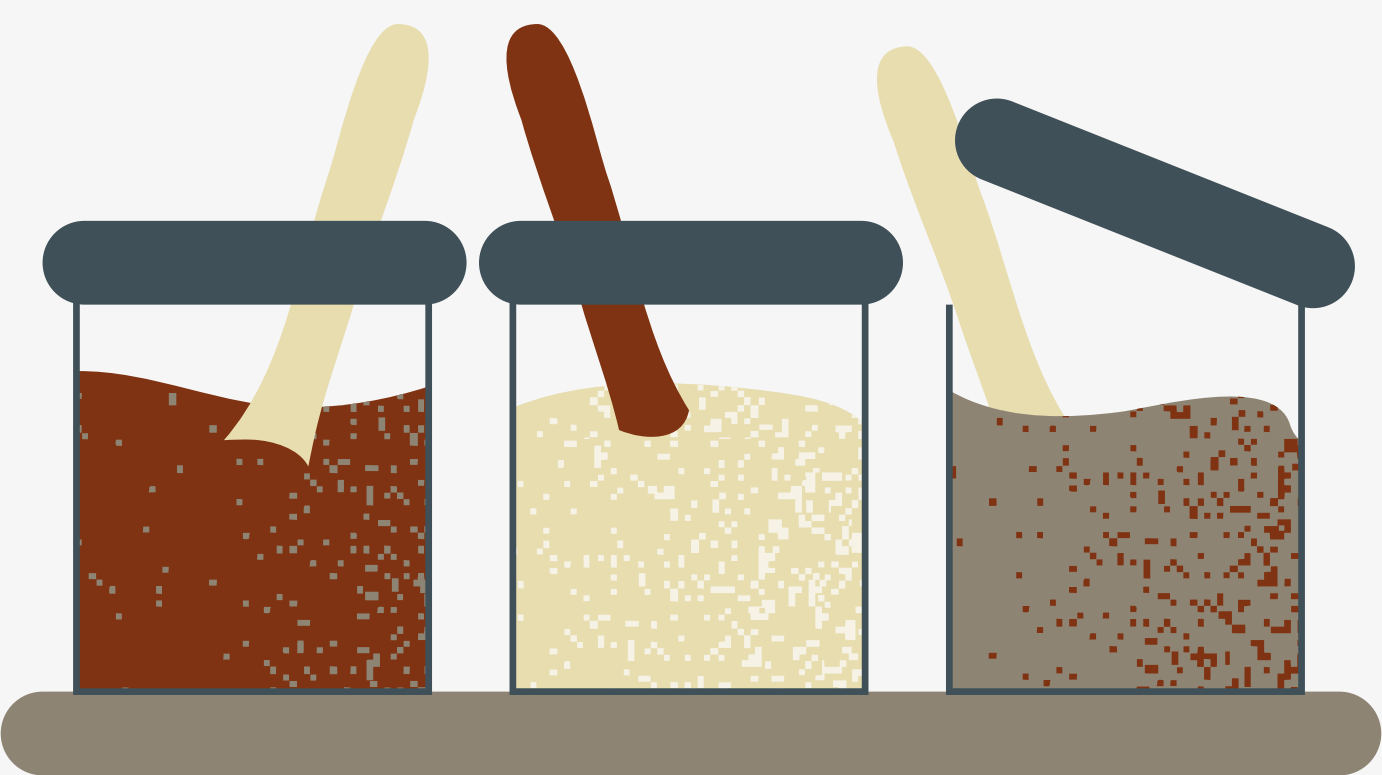
Growing up as the oldest in a house of four girls, this story became one of my favorites the first time I was introduced to it. *Little Women* follows the March sisters from childhood to womanhood. The book is classified as semi-autobiographical as Alcott based it on her early life. Alcott had three sisters and, like Jo, was the second oldest and a writer. The novel explores themes such as love, death, war, peace, and work and is a beautiful story of growing up and finding your place in the world.





Fun & Easy Fall Recipes

by Alicia Searl

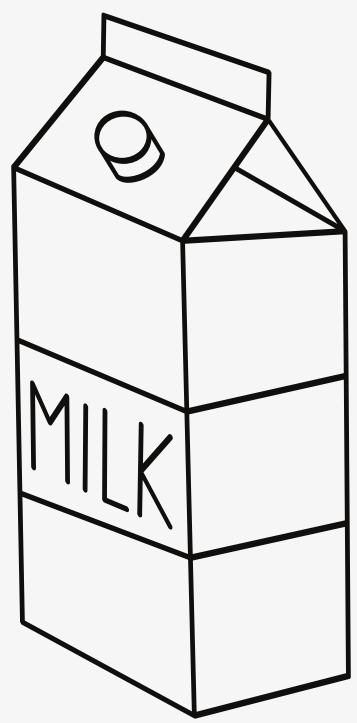
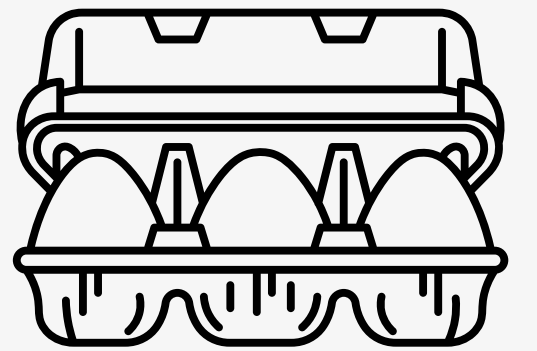


Breakfast & Brunch

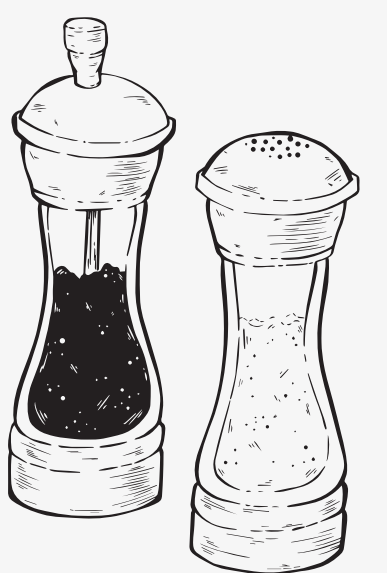


Egg and Sausage Casserole

Ingredients:



- 1 lb. pork sausage
- 6 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 cups cheddar cheese
- salt & pepper



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350. Cook and strain sausage. Pour on bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Mix eggs, milk, cheese, salt, and pepper and pour on top.

Bake for 40-50 minutes. Great for breakfast or brunch. You can also prep ahead and freeze until you are ready to bake it! (This is a staple in our home and can be made in various ways too. You can add vegetables such as onions, bell peppers, or mushrooms, and even throw in a can of Rotel to add a spicier effect. In that case, you can also change up the cheese with Monterrey Jack. Yum-o!)

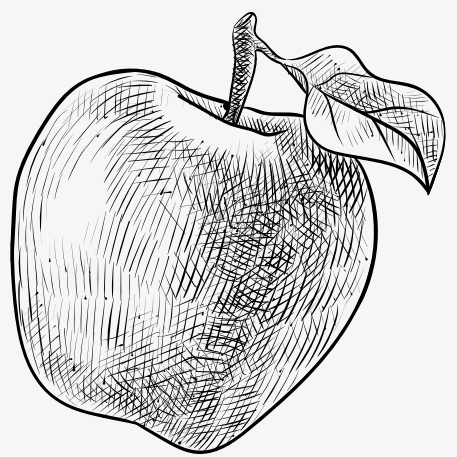
Apple Breakfast Cake

The fall calendar fills up fast. So, below is a collection of easy recipes that contain no more than five ingredients and can be thrown together in less than 30 minutes. Yay! These are some of our family favorites—simple and easy, go-to recipes that are sure to please even your pickiest eater.



Ingredients:

- 2 packages of cinnamon rolls
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cup chopped & cooked apples (or apple pie filling)



Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut and cube the cinnamon rolls and spread them along the bottom of 8 x 8 baking dish. Pour the apples on top. I usually cut all skins off and sauté in a pan with 1/2 stick of butter until tender. In a bowl, whisk the eggs, milk, and cinnamon (I sometimes sprinkle nutmeg, too) and pour on top. Bake for 40 minutes. Cool slightly, and enjoy!

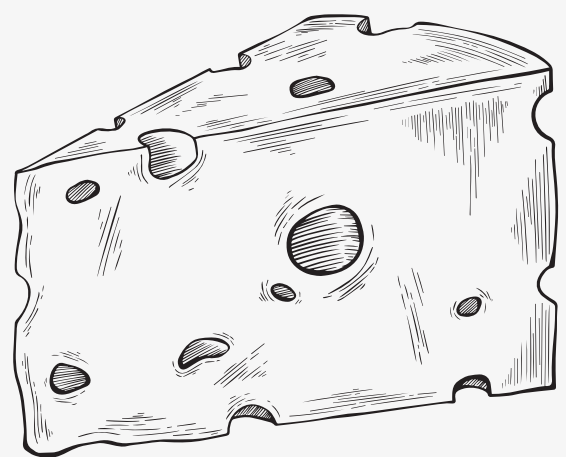
(This recipe is also delicious with blueberries!)



Comforting Casseroles



Nothing says “fall dinner” like a comforting casserole. It’s like they were made for this season. They are also so nostalgic, as they bring back memories of grandma cooking a casserole in one oven and prepping a pie for the other. The smells of this season just beg me to forgo any diet until January. Below are a few of our favorite casseroles this time of year:



Tamale Pie Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 ¼ corn muffin mix (like jiffy)
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can enchilada sauce
- Chili seasoning packet



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350. Prep cornmeal mix as listed on instructions (you will need milk and an egg) and pour in bottom of skillet or 9 x 13 baking dish. Cook for 20 minutes (or as directions say on package). As cornbread cools, cook the meat and add chili packet. Drain and set aside. Poke holes with a fork in the cornbread and pour the enchilada sauce over the top. Add the chili meat on top and sprinkle with the cheese. Enjoy!

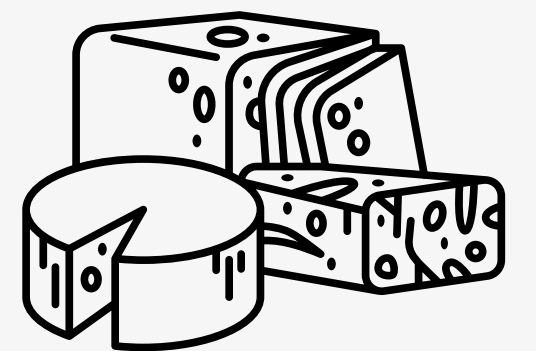
Chicken and Stuffing Casserole

Ingredients:



- 2 lbs. boneless chicken breasts
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cup mozzarella cheese
- 8 oz. package seasoned classic stuffing
- ½ stick butter

Directions:



Preheat oven to 375. Put thawed and rinsed chicken breast on bottom of 9x13 pan (usually makes 4-5) and sprinkle each side with salt and pepper.

Pour cream of mushroom soup on top.

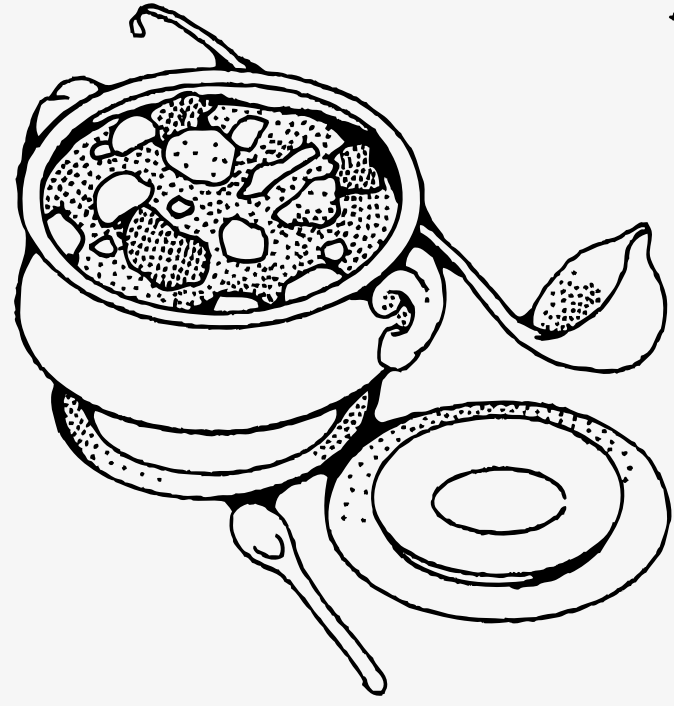
Sprinkle half the cheese on top of the soup.

Mix together the butter and stuffing and pour on top of that and sprinkle with the rest of the cheese.

Cover and bake for 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake another 10 minutes or so. Keep an eye as the top may crisp up fast.

(You can replace the chicken with other meat too. If you have leftover turkey or ham from Thanksgiving, this makes a great leftover dish!)

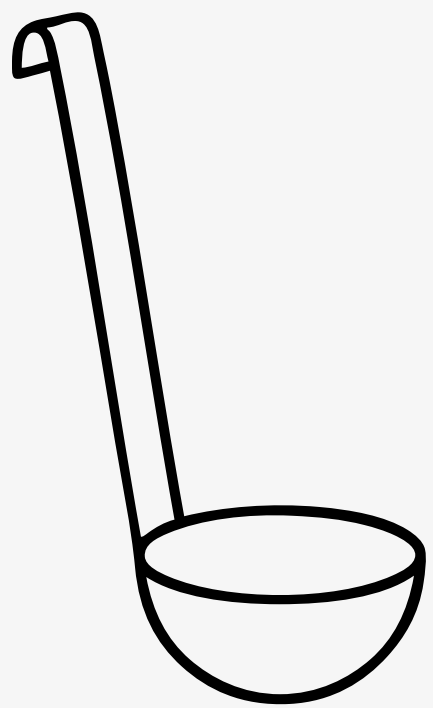
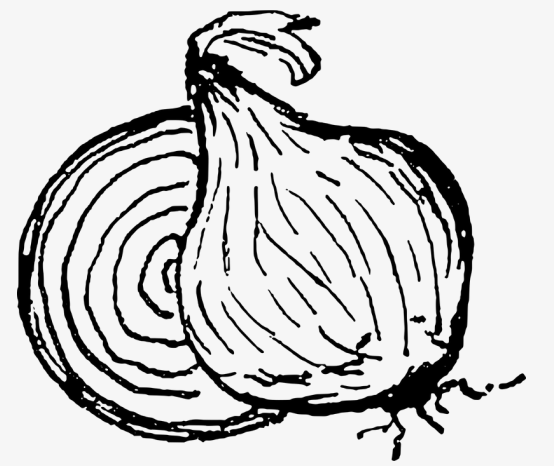
Savory Soups



Soups are the ideal meal for this season. Curl up with a book or cozy up by the fire with a steaming cup of soup and you're all set. While we have lots of soups that our family enjoys, below are two of our favorites. They are super easy to make and reheat nicely. Great for leftovers if you double the recipe.

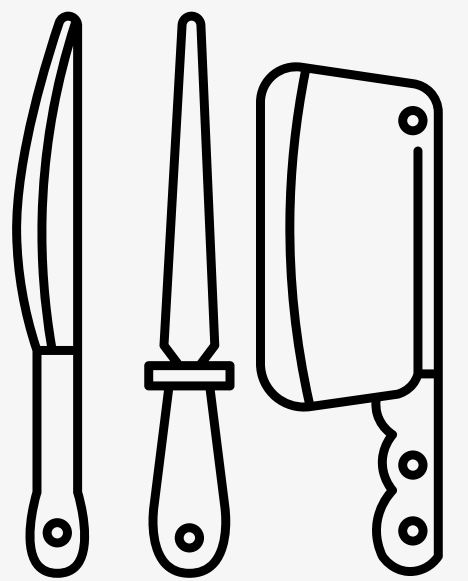
Sausage, Potato, and Kale Soup

Ingredients:



- 1 lb. sausage
- 4 cup half and half
- 3 potatoes cut up and cubed
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 onion
- 2 cups kale

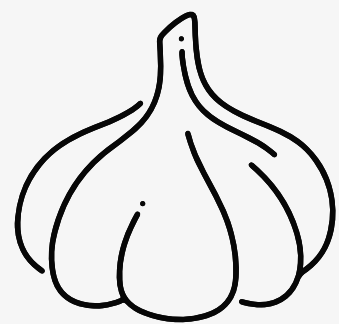
Directions:



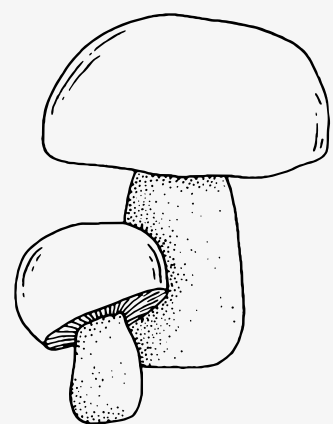
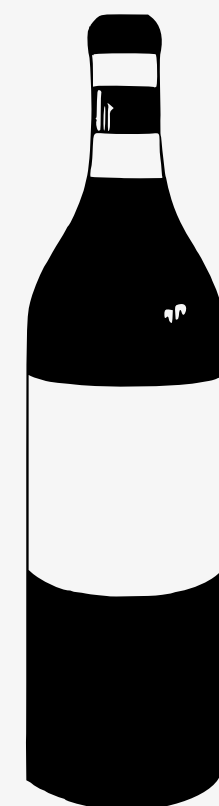
Cook sausage and onion. Stir in potatoes, chicken broth, and salt and pepper to taste (about ½ tsp.) Bring to a boil. Then reduce heat and let simmer for about 30 minutes. Stir in kale and half and half and simmer for 10 minutes more. Sprinkle with parmesan and red pepper flakes for garnish. Delish!

Creamy Mushroom Soup

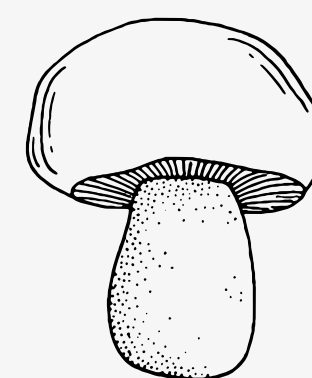
Ingredients:



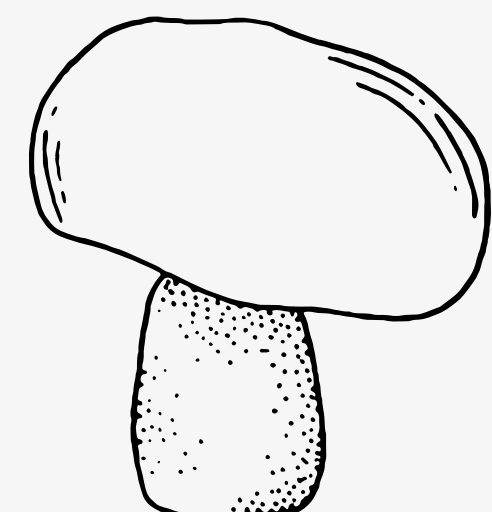
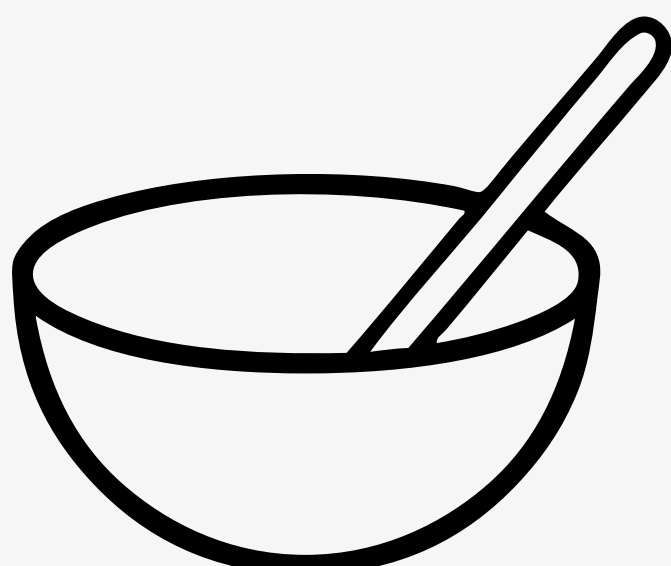
- 1 ½ lbs. fresh mushrooms (cremini, mini portobello, white button, shiitake)
- clove of garlic
- 1 onion
- ½ c. marsala wine
- 4 c. chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream



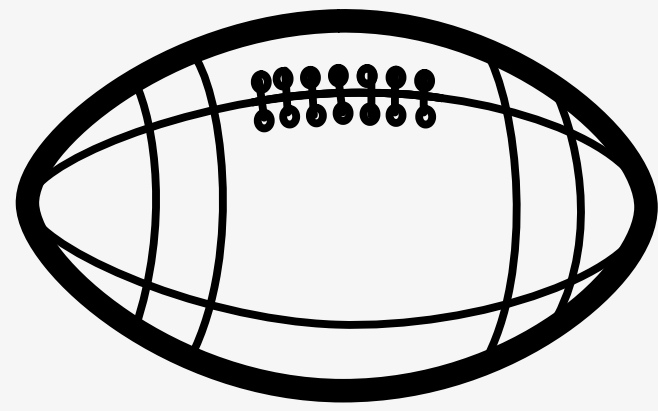
Directions:



Sauté onion with 2 tbsp. butter in dutch oven or stock pot. Add garlic with onion and it becomes translucent (about 5 minutes). Cook about 1-2 more minutes. Add mushrooms and sprinkle with ¼ cup flour to coat them, and add salt, pepper, and thyme for taste (1/2 tsp). Pour in marsala wine. Cook for five more minutes. Pour in chicken stock and bring to a boil. Then reduce heat, cover, and let simmer for 10-15 minutes. It will thicken, so check and stir occasionally. Turn heat off and stir in heavy whipping cream. Top with parsley, and serve!

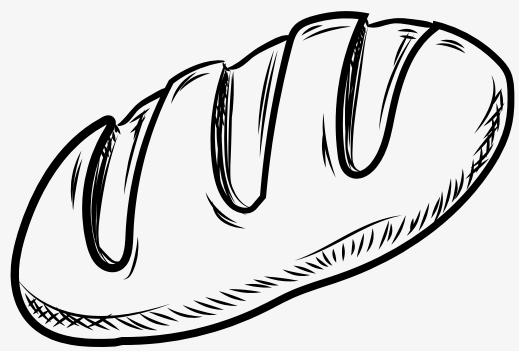


Football Favorites



Let's face it, you can't watch a game without snacks. Am I right? So, whether you watch the game or are just there for the snacks, here are some football finger foods that will score every time!

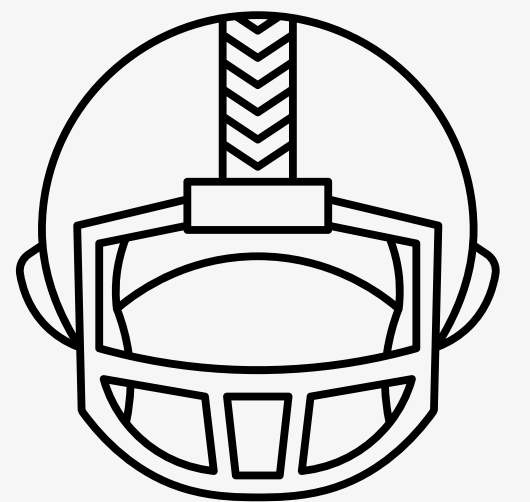
Poppyseed Sliders



Ingredients:

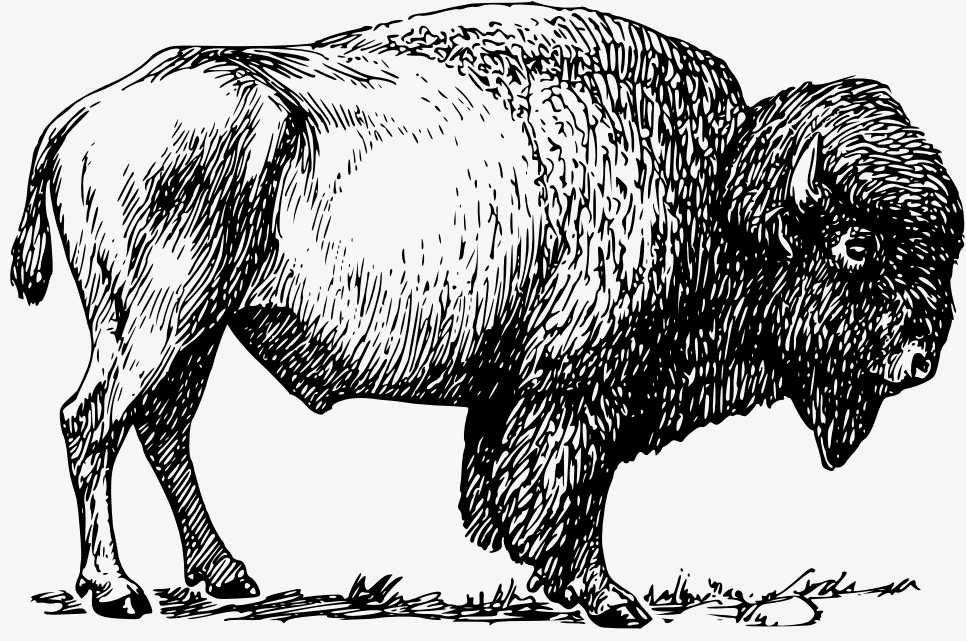
- Package Hawaiian Rolls _____
- 1 lb. sliced ham _____
- 1-2 pkg. sliced swiss cheese _____
- 1 packet french onion soup mix _____
- Poppyseeds _____

Directions:



Slice the rolls and place on baking sheet. Layer bottom of roll with ham and cheese and place tops on. In separate bowl, mix 4 tbsp melted butter with onion mix and poppyseed, and brush the top of each sandwich. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. This recipe will score some points with the family for sure!

Buffalo Chicken Dip



Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. shredded chicken
- 2 (8 oz) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 cup blue cheese dressing
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Red hot sauce
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup shredded cheese

Directions:

Place chicken and hot sauce in a skillet and heat through.

Add the blue cheese and cream cheese, stir until blended.

Mix half the cheddar cheese and smooth out evenly in skillet.

Sprinkle the rest of the cheese on top then put in over at 350 for 20 minutes.

This is sure to please the carnivores of the bunch!



*Many of these recipes came from my own sweet momma and were passed down to me. Some also came from Taste of Home, Delish, and Tasty.com.



A Prayer of Blessing for Your Family This Fall


Your Daily Prayer Devotional

By Rebecca Currington, Dayspring

*"From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children." - Psalm 103:17*



Life, like nature, unfolds in seasons. Springtime mirrors childhood, full of new beginnings, and fresh hope, a time of innocence and discovery. Summer, like our teen years, simmers with white-hot passion and the illusion of invincibility. Autumn speaks of maturity, with its rich kaleidoscope of brilliant colors and settled calm. Finally, winter sneaks up and covers the ground with a blanket of white just as age brings a covering of settled rest and quiet contemplation.



As this fall season approaches, I find myself delighting in the autumn of my life – old enough to appreciate my blessings and young enough to engage them wholeheartedly. I find that I've come to a place of prominence just as my mother and grandmother did before me.



I relish my new place and the responsibility that comes with it to set the tone for my family, celebrate our differences and speak blessing over each beloved family member. I also appreciate my role in fostering our family bond. Let's face it, family gatherings can be stressful due to differences of opinion, opposing political views, an unending to-do list, and all the traveling our modern families have to do to see each other.

Therefore, I'm happy to prayerfully serve as peacemaker. So before this busy fall season begins, I ask that you join me as we lift up our families (in all their messiness) to our heavenly Father, who loves us all and is the author of our peace. Won't you pray with me now?





Dear Father,

In Your beautiful book of Psalms, chapter 103 and verse 17, You give us this wonderful promise, “From everlasting to everlasting, the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children.” What better promise could we receive from You in the autumn of our lives than to see our children and children’s children blessed with Your love and righteousness? We ask for Your hand of blessing on us as well. Bless us with strength to be there for those we love, and wisdom to know what to say to bring comfort, encouragement, and sometimes difficult truth. We will need Your patience as we wait for Your perfect will and way in each of our loved one’s lives. We are so grateful, Lord God.



Amen

