



SAY GRACE

The invitation came by way of a tiny little voice: “Mammie and Pawpaw, will you come to Thanksgiving dinner with me at my school?” It was passionately delivered with sparkling eyes and a crooked-tooth grin—an invitation no grandparent could refuse. The decorations on the dinner tables told the story of the first Thanksgiving, with Pilgrim hats handmade from coffee cans and colorful fall leaves cut from construction paper. It was a huge gathering, with little feet scurrying to find a seat so families could all celebrate together. I wondered if for some this would be the only Thanksgiving meal they would enjoy this season. A little red-haired boy sat across from us, alone and quiet. We asked him to join our family. In our hearts we felt the reason for the season and were thankful that we could be a part of this little life that means so much to us. Before we scooted away, I picked up a red paper leaf and carried it carefully in my hand. It would be a memory of this moment.

It hangs on my wall in glory, displayed in an oversized frame that preserves the story of this time together. There will never be a monetary value to the small, framed piece of paper, but in our family’s story it is priceless.

In your own home, don’t overlook mementos: a treasured child’s drawing or a souvenir from a special celebration can take center stage in a room. Try exaggerating the frame or using a unique mounting technique to create your own heirloom. Framed keepsakes—like our special paper leaf—look great on gallery walls or as a stand-alone masterpiece.

← Something as simple as a child’s naïve drawing from a family celebration—like this treasured paper leaf (facing page) in our library—can become the inspiration for a room.