

Together @ Home

March 27, 2022
The Fourth Sunday of Lent



Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together what Paul says having new life in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Read the story together--choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the "Good News" of the Gospel: that you love us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to show us that love through His life, death, and resurrection.

Thank you that through Jesus, You have made a way for us to be forgiven and to become "new creations" who love, obey, and follow You like Jesus did.

Help us to act like those "new creations" in the way we love and care for others.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for parents to ask children:

According to Paul, what does a person who "is in Christ" become?

A question for children to ask parents:

How are you different (a new creation) since you became a Christian?

Family Activity 1

Butterfly Snacks:

You will need: Celery sticks, peanut butter, or nut butter substitute or cheese spread, pretzels (twists or classic shape), raisins or craisins (optional)

Cut celery sticks into 3 inch pieces. Fill the celery sticks with nut butter/other spread. Press two pretzels into the celery filling to be your butterfly wings. Add raisins for eyes/body.





A verse to remember

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new!

To learn this verse together, come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Family Activity - Growing New Life with God

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
-2 Corinthians 5:17



In the spring we often think of new life and growth. Jesus loved using nature and gardening illustrations in His parables, and gardening with your family—even if it's just planting a flower in a pot—is a perfect time to talk about what it means to grow as a Christ-follower. In this activity you will not only have the chance to help seeds sprout into a plant, but also make some comparisons between the things plants need to grow and the ways we grow in our faith.

Plant Instructions:

1. Decorate a plastic cup (it can be an old yogurt or sour cream container) with stickers and/or markers.
2. Fill cup with dirt (potting soil is best) and moisten.
3. Add a seed from a fruit (apple, orange, tomato) or a dried bean.
4. Place the flowerpot in a well-lit or sunny spot.
5. Check the plant every day. Water as needed (if the soil is dry).

As a family, talk about what will (hopefully) happen with the seeds you planted. (Hopefully, they will grow!) Be patient as you wait on the seeds to sprout—they may take as long as 14-21 days to germinate (begin to grow).

Looking back over the instructions for planting your seeds, you may notice that there are three things your plant needs to grow and thrive: soil, sunlight, and water. But did you know that we can relate these three key items for successful plants to the things we need in order to grow as Christ-followers? Think about it...

(see next page)

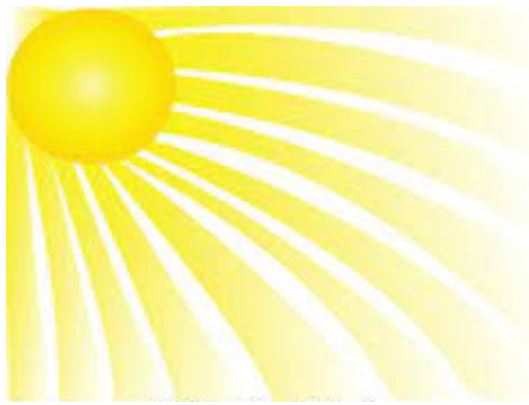
Gardening Necessity: #1: Soil

Plants need a good foundation of soil to start their growth.

For Christians, our “soil” and foundation is Jesus. Christ nurtures us and supports us. He gives us a place to extend our roots in safety.

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” – John 15:4 (NIV)

Just like a plant needs nutrient rich soil to thrive, Jesus gives us every possible nutrient we will ever need: Peace, Love, Encouragement, Wisdom, and so much more... and His supplies are unlimited.



Gardening Necessity #2: Sunlight

What else do plants need to grow? Sunlight.

Plants grow towards the light. They long for the warmth and strength that only sunlight can give.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105

The Bible is our sunlight. As God’s children, we should also lean towards the light of His Word for guidance and strength. God’s words to us in the Bible can comfort us when things are hard, and help us to know the right things to do—what path to take—in times of doubt.

Gardening Necessity #3: Water

Finally, plants need water.

Water helps a plant by transporting important nutrients throughout the plant and helping the plant to be physically strong. That much needed water is like the relationships we have with other Christians.

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are already doing.” – 1 Thess 5:11

God didn’t intend for us to grow alone, but to be there to encourage each other. Those who choose to follow Jesus are meant to come together, love one another, and support each other as we all grow in our faith.

Ultimately, though, it is God who makes all things grow.

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. –1 Cor 3:6



Here’s a prayer you can say each time you water your pots and watch your seeds grow into wonderful plants:

Dear God, You make all things! Thank you for making this plant grow. As I watch it grow, please help me to trust in You and grow in faith as I hear your Word. I love you God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ;
the new
creation
has come:
The old has
gone...**

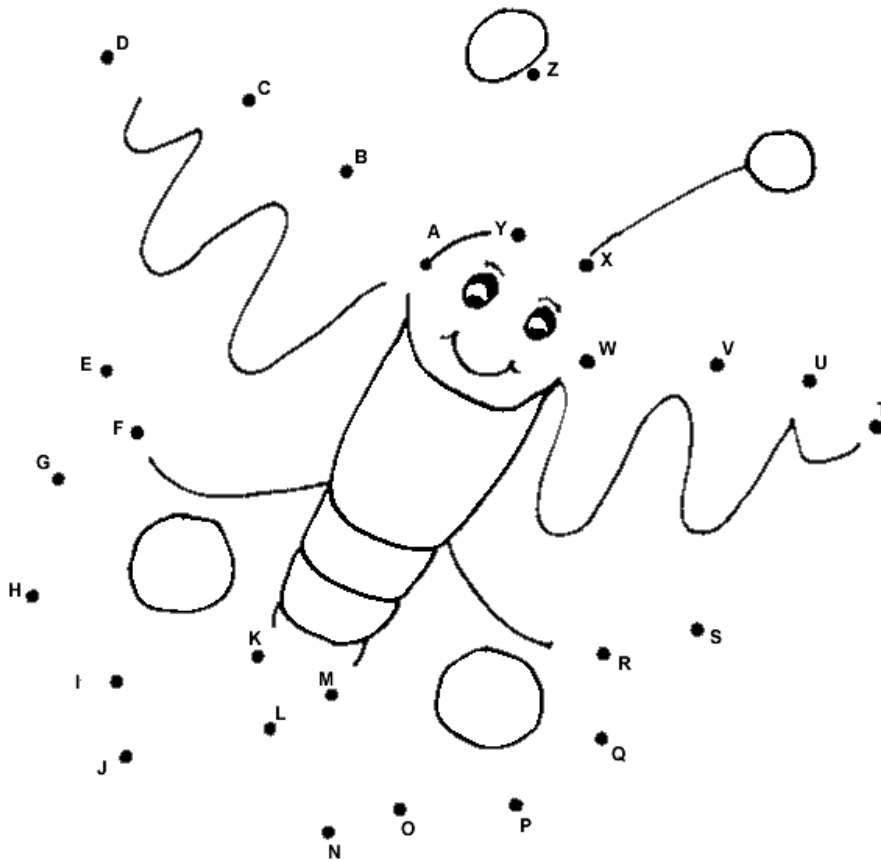
**the new
is here!**

2 Corinthians 5:17



Dot to Dot

Connect the dots in ABC order and then color the picture.



Word Search

B	E	A	I	Y	I	I	C	M	R	K	O	N	C	S
U	T	P	L	P	U	Q	K	H	R	M	K	T	R	S
A	M	B	A	S	S	A	D	O	R	S	G	N	E	E
E	F	B	X	G	L	Z	T	Y	P	I	E	W	A	N
J	L	H	C	W	C	Z	B	J	S	W	S	S	T	S
V	C	I	N	X	G	F	O	J	F	R	V	T	I	U
H	C	I	C	Y	L	R	K	Y	Z	X	D	L	O	O
H	S	R	F	N	I	Y	E	U	T	M	E	Q	N	E
F	U	S	H	D	O	Y	F	P	Z	E	V	K	D	T
Q	Z	Y	X	X	U	C	Z	Y	Z	N	G	Y	H	H
L	O	C	S	R	Z	J	E	A	B	J	D	U	C	G
E	Y	J	S	X	U	B	W	R	A	T	W	R	C	I
B	X	W	J	G	Q	L	M	P	O	S	S	O	I	R
I	R	Z	R	R	X	C	L	M	S	D	L	O	K	Y
U	Y	G	D	D	W	E	P	X	K	O	O	K	I	X

Can you find these words?

AMBASSADORS

CHRIST

CREATION

NEW

OLD

RECONCILE

RIGHTEOUSNESS

SIN