

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME - ADULTS/FAMILIES

BRIEF FAITH ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME.

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Composting as a Service

By Jim Merhaut

Composting can save you money, improve your gardens, and reduce your waste. It can also be a spiritual experience that connects you to others as you offer service to creation, to those you feed, and to future generations.

Materials Needed: Bible; Internet-connected device; homemade or purchased compost bin; kitchen food scraps, excluding meat and dairy products; grass clippings; small dried twigs; dried leaves and/or straw

Prepare in Advance: Either purchase or build a compost bin. You can build a compost bin using the tips below. Research how to best compost in your state and local area.

PRAY: *Say this prayer aloud to begin: God, give us wisdom to govern creation with a spirit of servant leadership. Amen.*

READ SCRIPTURE:

Christians honor Jesus as a king, but the biblical notion of royalty is different from typical human understandings of royalty. Discuss how Jesus' life reflects a model of servant leadership. Read Matthew 20:20-28 from your Bible for inspiration. Read aloud Genesis 1:26 from your Bible. What does it mean to be given dominion? Dominion is a royal term; in light of Jesus' ministry, biblical dominion is marked more by service than political power. How does this understanding of dominion challenge you to be more service-oriented in the way you relate to the rest of creation?

It takes a lot for the federal government to publicize that a legal activity of a major industry poses a serious health threat. That is the case with pesticides on foods. Producing food with a service mindset calls us to consider the advantages of minimizing waste while we produce food that contains lower levels of contamination. Composting is a simple way to take a step toward food production and waste management that serves the health needs of those we feed while protecting the soil for future generations. The following steps will help you build a healthy compost pile that can become the foundation of your vegetable garden's nutrient system. If you do not have a vegetable garden, compost is also a clean and effective supplement for ornamental trees, shrubs, and flower gardens.

As you engage in the composting process, reflect on how diversity is a blessing in nature. Wonder deeply about how God's natural processes that can take what is garbage in our eyes and transform it into valuable nutrition for our food. Rejoice that your service of composting provides safer food for your children and healthier soil for the generations who will come after you.

Compost Tips:

Layer food and yard waste with green and brown layers alternatively. Green layers include fresh grass clippings and/or kitchen scraps that exclude meat and dairy products. Brown layers include small twigs, wood chips, straw, and/or dried leaves. Each layer should be no more than four inches deep, and there is no minimum depth. Never leave a green layer exposed. Always cover it with a brown layer.

Continue to build your layers throughout the summer until your compost is full. Stirring the compost is not necessary, but it will speed up the composting process. If you do stir it and material from green layers are exposed, cover them with brown material. Let the compost decompose throughout the fall and winter. As soon as spring arrives, empty your compost and cover your compost with a tarp to protect it from sun and rain. Use it as you garden.