

# Get Your Ash On

By Lee Yates



Ash Wednesday kicks off Lent. Traditionally, the tone of Lent is somber. Look into the image of dirt and ashes in the Bible to help you see things a bit differently.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Spring


## Needed

Bible, small amount of garden or potting soil, water, small mixing bowl, spoon

## Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible at: Genesis 2:4-24; Genesis 3:19; Genesis 18:27; Job 42:5-6.



 by [Luz Adriana Villa](#)

## Activity Plan

1. Open in prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

*Awesome Creator, connect us with the rest of your creation and remind us that everything we see in this world comes from your generous and loving hand. Amen.*

2. Have two people read aloud Genesis 2:4-24, alternating verses, from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity. Discuss this creation account:
  - What questions do you have after reading this account of creation? (Such as: How did God get the dirt to stick together? Did God's hands get dirty? Did God use any tools for the detail work? How close was God when life was breathed into the dirt?)
  - What is the role of dirt, soil, ground in this account?
  - What do you see as fun or playful about this creation story?
3. Ask someone to read aloud Genesis 3:19, Genesis 18:27, and Job 42:5-6 from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity. Note that *dust* and *ashes* are used interchangeably in many Scripture texts. Whichever word is used it is a reminder of how God formed human beings.
4. Choose a symbol for your family that is positive (for example, a smiley emoticon, star, or heart).
5. In a small mixing bowl, make a paste from garden or potting soil and a little water. Take turns drawing your chosen symbol on each other's forehead to celebrate how God made you and how you are connected to all creation.
6. Close in prayer. Here are some words if you need them.

*God, we give thanks for the joy of your creation and the blessings of life you have breathed into us. Make us mindful of our connection to the world around us. As we journey through Lent, help us to feel your breath within us and all around us. Thanks for the gifts of new life you offer each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



### **Genesis 2:4-24**

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, <sup>6</sup> and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup> then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup> A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. <sup>11</sup> The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup> And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

### **Genesis 3:19**

[God said] By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

### **Genesis 18:27**

<sup>27</sup> Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

### **Job 42:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> [Job said] I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; <sup>6</sup> therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

