

Plants for Love

By Courtney Still

A simple springtime activity of planting seeds serves as a gift to share God's presence with others and a way to remember how God grants new life and growth in all of creation.

For

Young Adult

Season

Spring

Needed

One or two packets of seeds (any sort of flower or plant will do), soil, cups/flower pot or other container that will hold a plant (be resourceful with this), markers or paint, any other decorative materials (get creative!)



Prepare in Advance

- Decorate the container you will house your plant in and write this verse on the front:
I am the vine; you are the branches.
John 15:5
- Fill your plant container with soil.
- Follow the directions on the seed packet for planting and watering.

Experience

Determine who will receive your plant(s). Be intentional about those you choose. Maybe an older member of your congregation who needs someone to talk to, or perhaps a friend who needs encouragement, or a relative with whom you wish to make a stronger connection.

Pick a time to deliver your plant and explain the reason for your gift. Point out the Scripture verse displayed on the plant. Ask them to care for the plant, and as it grows to be mindful of the new life and growth the Lord grants us.

If this is someone you do not speak with frequently, ask him or her to let you know how the plant is doing. In this way you can have another conversation with this person about how her or she is doing as well.

Consider

Before you deliver your plant(s), read the parable of the vine and the branches in John 15:1-17 (see next page). Consider what Jesus asks of us: to love each other as he has loved. Let this be on your heart and mind as you serve others.

Pray

Pray together:

Lord, you created us and are constantly changing us; making us better through amazing growth. Let this plant be a symbol and reminder of the renewal you give us each day. Amen.

John 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit —fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.