

Spring Planting

By Susan Vogt

This is a follow-up activity to the activity titled **Renewing the Earth**. Spring is the time when many turn their thoughts to the annual ritual of planting. Even if you are not a gardener, let this season remind you of new life. Just as Christ rose to new life, so we can participate in the new life of the natural world surrounding us.

For

Adult / Couple

Season

Spring



Needed

Vegetable or flower seeds or plants, garden implement (can be a trowel, rake, or your hands.)

Prepare in Advance

Assuming that the ground has already been prepared for planting, decide where you want to plant the seeds or plants—in a flowerpot, a space in the garden, a community garden, etc. Read the planting directions or check out tips on the internet.

Activity Plan

1. Pray: Go to a natural place that's inspirational for you, such as sitting in the yard, taking a walk, or simply looking out a window at the sky. Sit in quiet for a moment noticing God and nature around you. Then put your awareness into words. It might go something like this:

Creative God, I receive your creation with awe and thanks. May my life continue your work of creating our world anew. Amen.

2. Plant some seeds or plants in a flowerpot or in the ground.
3. As you plant the seeds or seedlings, reflect on how this small beginning of new life, will grow and, hopefully, turn into food or something of beauty. Water the plant.
4. Rest and observe your work.
5. Take a moment to wonder at the marvel of how life grows. Read the Scripture story about the mustard seed, Mark 4:30-32.

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

You don't yet see any change, but with water, sun, and care, (and shooing those curious squirrels away), God willing, something will grow. Ponder what ingredients you need to make your own life thrive?

Variation

If a place for planting is not available to you (not even a flowerpot), or if you simply prefer; go to a woods, park, arboretum, or conservatory—ideally, the same one you visited for the activity **Renewing the Earth**. Notice if anything has changed, grown, or died. Why?

