

Family Fun Activity: Praise Garden

Gardening is a great way to exercise and enjoy fresh air. Gardening can also become a wonderful, relaxing time to spend in prayer. Jesus went into the garden to pray. Matthew 26:36 (NIV) - “Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’” We can do the same.

In this activity, you will plant a garden and create blessing rocks: visual reminders of your blessings. This garden will give you a quiet place to pray and praise God for your many blessings.



The Garden

Items Needed:

- General: Water in a Container, Shovel, Garden Gloves, Flower Seeds or Plants, and a spot in the Yard

Instructions:

- Read the planting instructions that came with the plant or on the seed package.
- Work together to find a good spot in the yard to plant the seeds or plants based on the needs of the plants.
- For seeds: follow the instructions on the seed package.
- For most plants:
 - Dig a hole deeper than the longest root, loosening the soil in the bottom of the hole.
 - Remove the plant from the container, loosen the soil around the roots, place the soil into the hole, and mix the “hole” soil and the “plant” soil together in the hole.
 - Cut any sideways-growing roots that are wrapped around the other roots.
 - Place the plant in the soil, cover the plant to the depth that it was in the container, and press the soil around the plant.
- Water and care for the seeds or plants as recommended.

Blessing Rocks

Items Needed:

- General: Paint Brushes, Paint, Aprons, and Rocks (large enough to decorate)

Instructions:

- To remember the names of your plants: for each plant, paint the name of the plant on a rock and place the rock beside the plant with that name.
- Paint other rocks in a way that is a reminder of your blessings; images or names of family members or friends or favorite Bible verses are examples of blessings that you may paint on your blessing rocks.
- When the rocks dry, place them in your garden.
- Blessing rocks can be placed as a border for your trees and plants.
- The rocks should be placed in areas where people will not be walking (so they don't trip) and in an area where they will not damage or harm something.
- You, your friends, and your family can sit and view your blessings while praying and praising God and enjoying your praise garden.