

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

CURRICULUM FOR AN INTERGENERATIONAL LENTEN ART PROJECT

CURRICULUM BY HANNAH GARRITY



INTRODUCTION

This Lent, we are exploring what must be cultivated within ourselves to further God's work through us. We are also contemplating letting go of things that may be hindering our positive influence in the world. In this project, we use an ancient Japanese art form called origami. Origami is the art of folding paper into delicate sculptures. Like many ancient Eastern art forms, the beauty of the final piece is in its interaction with the *ma*, or negative space, around it. The compositional balance between positive and negative space speaks beautifully to our theme for this season, *Cultivating and Letting Go*. Visually and symbolically, this intergenerational art project will take the congregation through the seasons, beginning with autumnal colors for *Letting Go* and ending with new growth for *Cultivating*.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this curriculum is to include multiple age groups in a congregational art project that evolves throughout the Lenten season. The project provides a tangible and meaningful way for any member to practice *Cultivating & Letting Go* throughout Lent.



MATERIALS

1. A few, large fallen branches to build a small tree.
2. Twine to wrap the branches together at the base.
3. A patio umbrella stand or Christmas tree stand to hold the branches upright. If you use smaller branches (*less than 1.5" diameter when bundled*), use an umbrella stand. Use a Christmas tree stand for larger branches.
4. Fabric to drape over the base of the stand to hide it.
5. Square paper cut to 6x6 inches in autumnal colors (*burnt orange, dark yellow, browns, red, etc.*) to make *Letting Go* statements into origami. Use printer or origami paper, but not construction paper, as it does not fold as easily. You will need one sheet per person in worship.
6. Square paper cut to 6x6 inches in spring colors (*bright spring greens, pastels, light pink, light blue, lavender, white, the colors of spring flowers in your area, etc.*) to make *Cultivating* statements into origami. Use printer or origami paper, but not construction paper, as it does not fold as easily. You will need one sheet per person in worship.
7. Pens or sharpies for writing *Cultivating & Letting Go* statements during worship.
8. Large paper clips or ornament hooks to hang the origami.
9. A large basket to collect the spring colored origami sculptures.