

CELEBRATION TREES

The Valentine Tree

A tree branch with multiple small branches painted white can be put into a pail filled with gravel, sand or rocks can be the beginning of a new tradition. Cut out small red hearts, and have your students write something on the heart that they love or are thankful for. Punch a hole in them and tie them to the tree. Every day go to the tree and read some of the “love notes.” Reading the notes will also spark the desire to add new notes. A great way to celebrate Valentine’s Day.

St. Patrick’s Day Tree

The tree again can serve as a focal point of creating thankfulness. Green shamrocks (obviously) become the conveyance for our thankfulness to God. The story of St. Patrick, his conversion, and his sharing the Gospel gives us a focus for our children. (Note: Green beer is probably not appropriate for the celebration.)

Fourth of July Tree

Red, white, and blue bells will make a beautiful tree. Again, writing and thinking about the profound gift that we are privileged to have in our country.

Harvest Tree

A good antidote to Halloween, orange, yellow, green fruit, or vegetable shapes can carry our message of what we like (Brussel Sprouts, anyone?) A good time to introduce new tastes to our children. (They may even like those cute little Brussel sprouts. Spark conversations about tastes, shapes, forms, and health.

Thanksgiving Tree

Orange is probably the color of the season with pumpkin shapes (and turkeys – maybe in brown) to have another season of writing and thanking God for all of our blessings. Reading the Thanksgiving notes of the children is another great exercise in truly being thankful.

The Christmas Tree

You might want more than just your “branch” tree but then again simplicity has its virtues. Multi-colored shapes and forms, bells and boxes, angels and stars will give a good foundation for expressing hopes of what you will receive for Christmas. (Hey! After all it is a Christmas tradition.) Also, a way of thinking and writing about the season and its real meaning.

Trees Unlimited

There are plenty of other days and seasons to celebrate using your creativity and your desire to grow thankfulness and awareness in your children. You can have a Spring tree, a flag day tree, why even a fourth of December tree (Hey. It’s my birthday – I celebrate.

And of course, our most significant tree is the one Jesus died on. Give thanks.