

Give and Grow

By Audrey Cox

A sure way to grow in faith is to serve others! This activity is a great way to spend time as a family while making springtime gifts for elderly in your community.

For

Young Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Terracotta pots (any size – you can find little ones at most craft stores for about \$.99), scissors, glue, water, foam brush (or thick paintbrush), pens, paper, and decorating paper (old magazines, tissue paper, or scrapbook paper)



Prepare in Advance

- Mix glue with a little water together in a bowl and stir until the glue is slightly thinned out (if the mixture is too watery, it will not work)
- Cut small sections/strips of paper and set aside. These will be used for the encouragement notes to be placed in the pots.

Activity Plan

1. Cut out shapes or pictures from your decorating paper. Cut out enough shapes and pictures to cover the outside of your pot.
2. Using the glue mixture, attach the pieces of paper to the outside of the pot. When all the paper has dried to the pot, paint on one coat of the glue/water mix over all the paper to leave a nice glossy finish on the pot.
3. While the pot is drying, write notes of encouragement on the strips of paper you have cut out. The notes may be a prayer, a scripture verse, a positive quote, or just a "Have a great day!" For those too young to write, they can draw pictures! Be sure to write the name and age of the young artist on the pictures.
4. Fill the pot with your notes. Place the completed pots in the middle of your table and have each person hold one pot in her or his hand. Gather around the gifts and say this blessing aloud:

Giving God, let these gifts be a sign of your joy and peace to those who receive them. May our faith grow as we serve together as a family! Amen

5. Identify elderly or homebound persons whom you know or in your neighborhood and arrange to visit them as a family and present your gifts. Your pastor or someone from your church may be able to give you names of persons to visit.