

# Family Page



Here is a Lenten activity to help you produce good fruit on your family tree.

1. Find a small tree or branch with several limbs on it. "Plant" your tree in a pretty pot or a bucket decorated with pictures cut out from a magazine.

2. Decorate several (unboiled) eggs to hang on your tree. To do this, poke a small hole in one end of the egg and a slightly larger hole in the other. Blow through the smaller hole to force the contents through the larger hole. (Save the inside of the egg to use in cooking.) Now color the shells with Easter egg dye just as you color your boiled eggs.

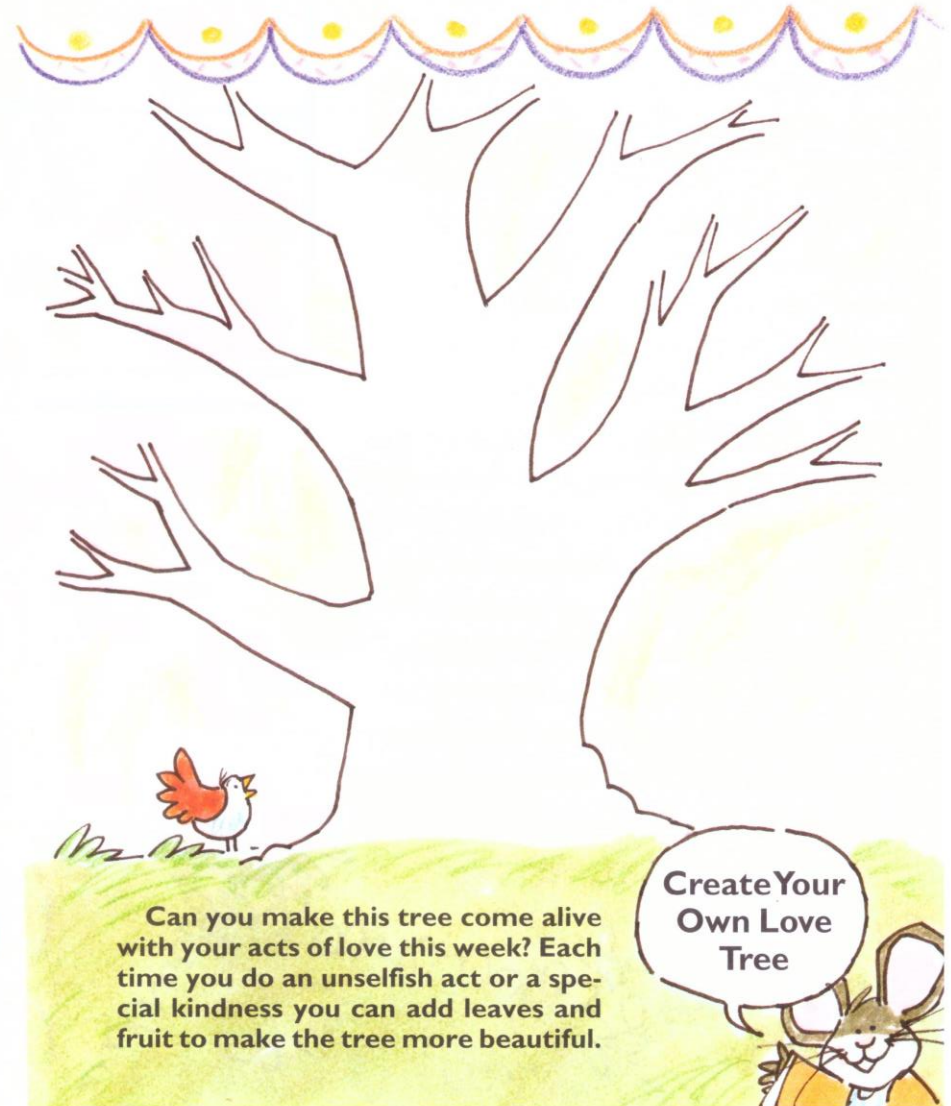
3. To hang your colored shells, thread a large needle with embroidery thread, making a knot at the end. If you have a small bead, you may string it onto the thread. Now run your needle and thread in the larger hole and out the smaller one. Make a small loop at the top for hanging.

4. Each time someone in the family does something especially kind and loving this week, add a brightly colored egg to your tree. By Easter, you will have a lovely centerpiece for your table, a centerpiece filled with loving and fruitful deeds.



# explaining GOD'S WORD

Third Sunday of Lent (C) • Luke 13:1-9 • March 20, 2022



Can you make this tree come alive with your acts of love this week? Each time you do an unselfish act or a special kindness you can add leaves and fruit to make the tree more beautiful.



# The Tree That Had No Fruit

Jenny had a little plant growing on her windowsill. Every morning she would water it and place it in the sunshine. One morning, when she woke up, her plant was all droopy. She felt so sad. "I'll have to throw it away," Jenny told her mother.

Jenny's mother shook her head. "Your plant isn't dead," she said. "It just needs special care." Her mother put the plant in a cool and shady place and fed it with special plant food. Soon it was healthy again.

Jesus tells a story this week about a lovely orchard of fig trees. One day the owner of the orchard noticed a tree without any fruit. "Cut that tree down," he told the gardener. "Give me one more year," the gardener said, "and I will work with the tree." The gardener would not give up on that tree.



You are like that little fig tree, and the fruit you bear are the kind deeds you do in the name of Jesus. When you are selfish and uncaring, disobedient and grumpy, you cannot bear any fruit. But like the kindly gardener, Jesus does not give up on you. He just keeps on loving you until you just have to love back and again bear fruits of love.

## Opposites Don't Mix

Here is a matching game that will give you some idea of how selfish acts can be changed into unselfish ones. Listed in the first column are unfruitful ways of acting — in the other, fruitful ways. Can you match up the opposites?

<b>SELFISHNESS</b>	<b>becomes</b>	<b>UNSELFISHNESS</b>
1. Disobeying	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharing
2. Being grumpy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taking turns
3. Arguing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Obeying
4. Telling lies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playing fair
5. Cheating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Being cheerful
6. Not sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Telling the truth

