**Family Praise Tree for Lent**

In the Old Testament, God’s people regularly built monuments to help them remember and talk about the wonderful ways God provided for and loved His people. In our homes we can create a visible reminder of God’s care. Your Family Praise Tree will help you begin regular conversations about God’s love with your children.

Supplies:

* Tree branches
* Flower pot, vase or mason jar large enough to hold the branches
* Florist clay or foam
* Small rocks or marbles
* Construction paper
* Hole punch
* Ribbon
* Scissors
* Markers or crayons

Collect a couple of tree branches from outdoors. If you want to be fancy with your tree, you can use gold spray paint to paint the branches.

Anchor the branches in the flower pot or vase with florists clay or foam. Put rocks or marbles over the foam to securely hold the branches in place.

Cut leaves out of the green paper. Cut flower shapes out of other colors of paper. Punch each shape with the hole puncher and string a 5-8 inch piece of ribbon through each hole, creating a loop.

Ask family members to write a statement of praise on the green leaves such as, “God is Great!” or “I love Jesus!”. Hang the leaves on the tree.

Place the flower shapes in a basket below the tree. Each Sunday during Lent, ask family members to write something they are grateful for or a blessing they have received during the week on the flower shape. Hang them on the tree.

As an alternative, ask family members to add flower shapes to the tree all week, as they are blessed. Use Sunday mealtime to talk about the flowers that have been added to the tree.