

Suggestions for Honoring God's Creation

CHRISTMAS



Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11

- Agree as a family what you're going to do for Christmas gifts. One family decided that each person would receive three gifts each year to symbolize the gold, frankincense, and myrrh the wise men gave Jesus. They each received one thing they need, one thing they want, and one small surprise.
- Pick names out of a hat for extended family, so each adult only gets one special Christmas gift. Or opt for giving presents to children only.
- Spend less. It takes an average of six months for a credit card user to pay off holiday debt.
- Skip paper Christmas cards. If everyone sent just one less card per year, we could save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.
- Reduce the trimmings. If every family reused just 2 feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.
- Wrap in reusable material, such as cloth bags or reusable gift bags. If every household in America wrapped just 3 presents in reused materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.
- Celebrate close to home. If each family in America consumed one less gallon of gasoline this holiday season (cutting out about 20 miles of travel), we'd reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons.
- Consider purchasing a live tree from a local nursery and replanting it after the holiday. Or purchase an artificial tree and save gas on annual trips to a tree farm; also artificial trees do not require pesticides.
- Instead of adding new ornaments this year, opt for edible or compostable items like stringed popcorn or cranberries for garland. Making Christmas decorations can also be a fun family activity.
- Switch to LED holiday lights. They cost about \$8 more per strand than standard lights, but use up to 100 times less energy and will last about ten years or one hundred thousand hours when used indoors.
- Give purposeful gifts this Christmas. Everyone appreciates homemade, personalized gifts more than store-bought options. Another idea is to give an "environmental starter kit" filled with items such as high-efficiency lightbulbs, a battery recharger, refillable bottles, canvas shopping bags, etc.
- Combine shopping trips to use less gas. And remember to bring your reusable shopping bags.



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