Build a 3D Tree

Materials Needed

3 copies of *Tree* p. 2 printed on stiff white paper and a copy of *3D Tree Instructions* p. 3 **for each student**, thin green paper, scissors, tape, glue sticks, small craft pom-poms or red or yellow paper, paper to cover table *optional:* device for watching www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-trees-in-the-word-correspondences

Prepare in Advance

Watch the video and decide if you will use it in class. Note: video is 10 minutes. You may also wish to make a sample tree.

New Church Concept People and Trees

Our early childhood is like the sprout of the tree emerging out of the ground from its seed. Our youth and young adulthood are like that sprout growing into a trunk with slender branches. The earthly truths that we first take in are like the leaves. Our first steps into the marriage of what is good and what is true are like the flowers a tree brings forth. The good deeds done from a caring spirit are like the fruit. The propagation of wisdom from love is like the seeds. See *Divine Providence* 332.3



The Word often compares people with trees. The New Church teaches that parts of a tree correspond to parts of the human mind. In this activity, students create a 3 dimensional standing tree and reflect on how their lives can grow with the Lord's love and wisdom.

1. If you have chosen to use the video on the *Correspondences of Trees* run it before beginning the discussion. (Video is ten minutes.)
2. The Word often compares people with trees. Sometimes trees in the Word represent people who lead lives based on the Word, and sometimes they represent people who are selfish.
3. Growing a tree that is rooted in the Word is a life-long process, but we can work on our tree every day.
4. The teachings of the New Church tell us that leaves represent truths from the Lord's Word. In the Holy City, New Jerusalem, that the apostle John wrote about in the book of Revelation, there was a beautiful Tree of Life whose leaves "were for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2). It is truth that can heal us of our tendencies toward selfishness.
5. We are also taught that the fruits on a tree represent the good actions that we do out of love for the Lord and people around us. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, "Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit…. Therefore by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:17,20).
6. Hand out the *3D Tree Instructions* (p. 3) and read the verses from Psalm 1 together. This passage describes the kind of tree we can be like if we follow the Lord.
7. Have students work either by themselves or in pairs to create a 3D Tree. Students will each need 3 copies of the *Tree* (p. 2) along with the other supplies.
8. These trees can be used as decorations, such as table centerpieces, or put beside a copy of the Word, to remind us of the life we are striving for.

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3D Tree Instructions



Blessed are those who walk not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful;
But their delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law they meditate day and night.
They shall be like trees planted by rivers of water,
That bring forth their fruit in its season,
Their leaf also shall not wither; and whatever they do shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3



1. Fold the rectangular base of each tree page up toward the trunk.



2. Fold each tree page in half with the blank side showing.



3. Rub glue on the top side of one page. Place another folded page on top and press to glue.



4. Glue the last page on top of the other two in the same way.



5. Glue the two remaining single flaps together to form a  shape.



6. Unfold the pages and cut a slit up the center of each base.



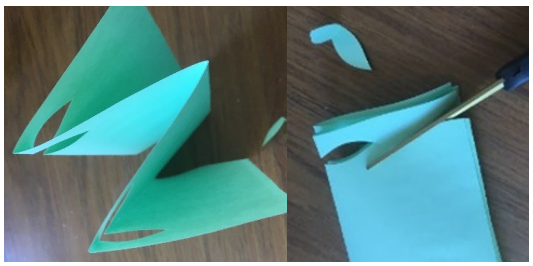
7. Fold all pages together. Start from the base to cut out tree.



8. Finish cutting out the tree. Then unfold the three flaps.



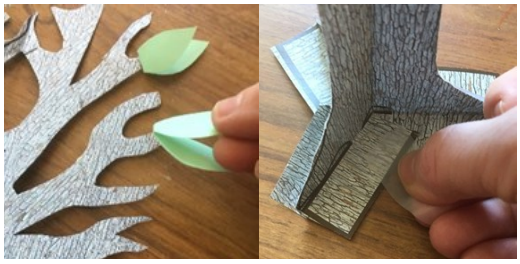
9. Fold the pieces of the bases over each other and tape together as shown.



10. Accordion fold a green piece of paper and cut out leaf shapes as shown above. Do not cut through the folds.



11. Add glue to the base of one side of the leaf.



12. Glue the leaves to the branches. As you work, it may be helpful to stand the tree up and tape the base lightly to the table.

13. Glue on pom-poms as shown in the picture at the top of the page. Or cut fruit shapes out of colored paper to glue on.

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