

AN ASH WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY

A
COMPANION
TO

DUST TO DUST

"WHEN
ASHES ARE
TOO MUCH"

WHAT

1. You or your child will write "Alleluia" on a piece of paper or you can color in the attached printable. Put in a ziplock.
2. Find a patch out dirt outside or bring in a small container of dirt inside.
3. Bury the Alleluia in the dirt.
5. Pay attention to the feel, look, and smell of the dirt. The messier, the better for this activity.
4. On Easter, dig up the piece of paper and sing your favorite song filled with "Alleluia".

SCRIPTURE

After burying the Alleluia, read Genesis 2:4-7 or at least the following excerpt:



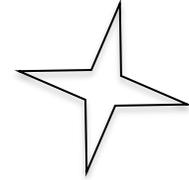
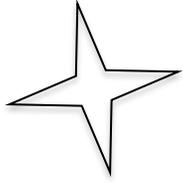
"...then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

MEANING & REFLECTION

One of the symbolic messages of the ashes on Ash Wednesday is to remind us of our own mortality - that you are dust and to dust you shall return. This symbolic moment points us back toward our creation and our Creator while also calling us forward to when we will see our Creator "face-to-face" - hopefully for all eternity. This experience and reflection inspires gratitude, love, and action that propels us back into our Creator's arms now, not waiting until we return to dust.



"Alleluia" means "praise to God." Because Lent is a more somber and penitential season, we don't sing or say "Alleluia" throughout the season, until Easter. Burying the Alleluia is a physical reminder to not say or sing it during Lent, and it reminds us that our focus is on what is to come.



Alleluia