Springtime and Lent

Many of the things we do in the springtime are similar to the kinds of things you and I can and should do during Lent as we prepare for Pascha.

In the springtime, we often **OPEN UP** our windows and let fresh spring air fill our home.

For Lent, a great thing to do is **OPEN UP** our Bibles and read them more. When we read our Bibles, God speaks a fresh word to us and fills our hearts with His presence.

In the springtime, we often clean and **CLEAR OUT**- especially the clutter in our homes. We might go through our closets and take out the things we don't really need: heavy coats, old toys- things that will just be in the way.

For Lent, it is good to **CLEAR OUT** the things in our lives that we don't really need—things that get in the way of following Jesus. For example, maybe you watch TV or play video games a lot. Why not put them away for a while and use that extra time to pray?

In the springtime, we always need to **SWEEP UP**. This is when we often find and clean up all the dirt in our homes that has been hiding all winter- like under rugs, dirt that no one else sees, but dirt that is still there.

For Lent, it is good to **SWEEP UP** any mistakes or messes we have made. Ask yourself, "Do I need to apologize to someone for something I said or did? Do I need to ask God to forgive me?" Confession is the best way to ask God to help you **SWEEP UP** your sins.

Adapted from Martha O'Dell http://www.sermons4kids.com/springtime_and_lent_odell.htm

In the springtime, we **PLANT** many of the seeds that will bring us vegetables and flowers throughout the rest of the year. We can plant seeds in our yards, flowerbeds, gardens, and pots and water them as we wait and watch them grow into something beautiful.

For Lent, it is good for us to **PLANT**- different kinds of seeds. We can plant seeds of love in the hearts of others when we are kind, or helpful, or when we tell someone about Jesus. For Lent, think of something you can do that will become something beautiful for someone else, and do it in the name of Jesus, the one who did something really beautiful for you.

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