

Suggestions for Honoring God's Creation

HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL EVENTS



They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

PSALM 145:7, NIV

- 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 receive 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 three presents in reused materials, it would save enough paper to cover forty-five thousand 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.
- Honor holidays the way Jesus would want you to. U.S. consumers purchase more than 17 million egg coloring and dye kits during the week leading up to Easter. Chocolate candy chalks up about \$318 million in sales, second only to Valentine's Day.
- Scale back Halloween consumption. The United States spends more on Halloween decorations than any other holiday except Christmas. Retailers also report a boom in sales of pet costumes, with 7.4 million households planning on dressing up their pets. Total Halloween spending: \$5.07 billion, second only to the Christmas holiday.
- Green up your wedding. Keep it small. Serve local and organic food. Borrow a wedding dress. Register for environmentally sound wedding presents or request donations to favorite charities.
- Plan ahead for a green burial. A typical U.S. funeral—including embalming, a metal casket, and cemetery charges—averages \$8,500. Funerals are the third largest personal expense, after a house and car. Nearly one million gallons of formaldehyde are buried in embalmed bodies and 1.6 million tons of reinforced concrete is buried in the construction of vaults each year in the United States.



OUR MISSION

Blessed Earth is an educational nonprofit that inspires and equips faith communities to become better stewards of the earth. Through outreach to churches, campuses and media we build bridges that promote measurable environmental change and meaningful spiritual growth.

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