

Letter to Families

Dear Families,

During the Season of Lent, which is 40 days long (not counting the Sundays, which are all considered “little Easters”), the children will be exploring stories from the New Testament about Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness and Jesus’ encounters with Nicodemus, a woman drawing water at a well, a man born blind, and a friend named Lazarus.

Here is a weekly prayer ritual for this season:

Designate a prayer space and place a length of wide purple ribbon and a dish with six stones and six tealights in the space; each week invite a child to place one of the stones (symbolizing God’s faithfulness) on the ribbon and help you light a tealight to place beside the stone as you say together, “God was with Jesus. God is with us.”

And here are some activities your family could do together during Lent:

- Work together on an outreach project (children may be bringing home information for a “coin collection” project)
- Choose one thing your family could try and do without, or one thing your family might begin doing during this time

The Season of Easter following Easter Sunday (April 12) is 50 days long. During this time the children will explore stories from the gospels of John and Luke and the book of Acts about the ways in which Jesus’ followers shared God’s love through words and actions. Consider reading each week’s story again at home from a children’s Bible: John 20:19–31, Luke 24:13–25, Acts 2:42–47, Acts 6:3–8, John 14:15–21, and John 17:1–11.

Here is a prayer ritual for this season:

Place a length of wide yellow or gold ribbon and a candle in the prayer space. Invite a child to light the candle as you say, “This light reminds us of the light of God’s love in our lives as we follow Jesus, the risen Christ. Christ is risen. Alleluia!”

And here are some activities your family could do together during the Easter season:

- attend an Easter Sunday sunrise service, or get up before dawn on other days to watch the sun rise together
- make hot-cross buns together to share with friends and neighbours
- send cards or letters to those working overseas for the national church, expressing appreciation for the work they are doing to share the good news of the gospel

Pentecost Sunday (May 31) marks the end of the Season of Easter. This is a day to celebrate the Spirit of God and the growth of the Christian community. Plan a picnic for this day with activities such as kite-flying or blowing bubbles to symbolize the winds of the Spirit.

We will be praying for your child during these weeks. We ask that you and your child pray for us as well as we prepare for and lead the sessions each week.

May this Lenten and Easter season be a time of spiritual nurture and growth for your child and your family.

Sincerely,

Suggested children’s Bibles for using at home: For young children, *Family Story Bible* or *The Lectionary Story Bible, Year A*. For older children, *Read, Wonder, Listen: Stories from the Bible for Young Readers*. Available from the publisher of *Seasons of the Spirit* at www.woodlakebooks.com



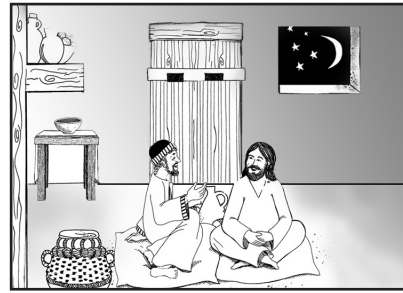
LENTEN CALENDAR FIGURES

Instructions for your Lenten journey

1. On the first Sunday of Lent (March 5) fill in the first four footprints on the Lenten Calendar resource sheet (p. 9) and glue the picture for Week 1 on the first square.
2. Each day during Lent fill in another footprint.
3. Each Sunday during Lent glue another picture into a square.
4. When you reach the end of the pathway it will be time to celebrate Easter!



Week 1



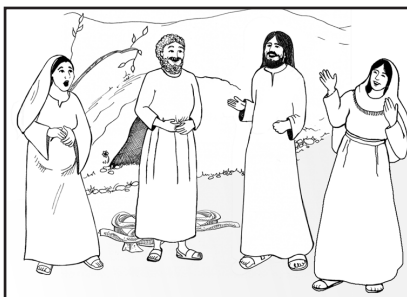
Week 2



Week 3



Week 4



Week 5



Week 6

