

Lenten Readings and Activities for Children

First Sunday in Lent: February 21, 2021

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for this time together with you right here with us as we look at what Lent calls us to notice. Amen.

Bible Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Conversation: Let's say we are going to explain to one of our friends what Jesus has told us here. How would we say it in our own words?

Here is the way Mark said it: "The time is fulfilled, "The kingdom of God has come near, "Repent "Believe the Good News."

Here are what those phrases mean:

The time is fulfilled: Now, not later.

The kingdom is near: God is here with us

Repent: stop doing stuff that gets in the way, start over, begin again.

Believe the Good News: God loves us and has sent Jesus to save us.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for giving us the season of Lent to think about Jesus. Amen.

Second Sunday in Lent: February 28, 2021

Opening Prayer: Gracious Lord, we ask you to guide us today as we discover more about who you are and how we are to follow you in our lives each day. Amen.

Bible Reading: Mark 8: 31-38

Take Up Your Cross: Hand out the cross illustration located at the back of this packet and invite your child(ren) to illustrate what it means to follow Jesus. Our youngest children may just want to color the cross their favorite colors. Older children may have done something special at home to mark the season of Lent. What might illustrate this holy time?

Closing Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for showing us the ways to follow you. Thank you for loving us as we learn how to do what you call us to do. Amen.

Third Sunday in Lent: March 7, 2021

Opening Prayer: Thank you God for the people in our church. It takes work to have Sunday School, get babies baptized, and people married. Amen.

Bible Reading: John 2: 13-22

Cleaning the Temple: Ask your child(ren) to draw what kinds of things go on INSIDE our church. Engage them in conversation about what they are drawing (you may need to prompt them since they have not been physically inside for a church service in a while.) Ask them what kind of things do NOT belong inside the church. They may illustrate this by drawing an object with an X over it.

Closing Prayer: Thank you God for our church and for the people who take care of it for us. Amen

Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 14, 2021

Opening Prayer: Thank you for sending Jesus to show us what you want us to know.
Amen.

Bible Reading: John 3: 14-21

Come to the Light: Invite the children to create pictures or a piece of art that reflects where they see “the light” or God in the world today. This can be activities they’ve seen in church or simple acts of kindness they’ve seen in school or other parts of their community.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for helping us learn how to love and serve you.
Amen.

Fifth Sunday in Lent: March 21, 2021

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for making seeds. Thank you for the things seeds grow into when they are planted. Amen.

Bible Reading: John 12: 20-33

Planting a Seed: Let the children plant seeds! Find a spot in your yard or an inside pot (which may even be a paper cup) to sprinkle the seeds included in your Lenten package. Sprinkle the potting soil on top. What else do the seeds need? Water, of course! Help your child(ren) remember to water the soil whenever it feels dry.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, for this story about seeds and for what the seeds will become. Amen.

Palm Sunday: We are putting together a package of activities for Holy Week and Easter...keep an eye on your mailbox!