

Hope in Lent and Holy Week



(Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)

A STORY FOR LENT

Several days before the feast of the Passover, Jesus visited the home of his friend Simon. While they were dining, a woman carrying a sweet-smelling and expensive perfume came into the house. She poured the perfume on Jesus' head. Some of the dinner guests complained that she had wasted the expensive perfume when the 300 silver coins spent to purchase it could have been given to the poor. Jesus told them that through this act she prepared his body for burial and all who heard what she had done would remember her deed.

The perfume used by the woman to anoint Jesus was imported, making it very expensive. Perfumes and oils were also used to ready bodies for burial.

A STORY FOR HOLY WEEK

The soldiers took Jesus to the court of Pilate, the Roman governor. After questioning Jesus, Pilate announced that he could not find Jesus guilty of anything. "Beat him with a whip, then set him free," he said. The crowd loudly protested, demanding Jesus be put to death. Finally, Pilate gave in and freed the murderer Barabbas. He gave them Jesus to face death nailed to a cross.

THINK ABOUT IT

A common laborer earned about one silver coin a day. How long did a laborer work to earn 300 coins? Would you have made such a sacrifice for Jesus?

Jesus was led away. A man from the crowd, Simon from Cyrene, was selected by the soldiers to follow behind, carrying Jesus' cross. Many people followed, loudly crying for Jesus. When they reached the place called "The Skull," Jesus and two other criminals were nailed to the crosses. Then Jesus spoke, "Father, forgive them because they do not realize what they are doing."

THINK ABOUT IT

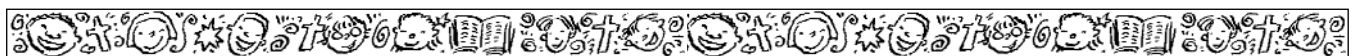
Why didn't Jesus save himself?

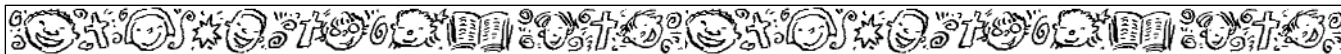
The soldiers made fun of Jesus, gambled for his clothing, and put a sign up that mockingly called Jesus the King of the Jews. One of the criminals shouted at Jesus to save himself and them if he was truly the Messiah. The other criminal apologized for the bad things he had done. Jesus promised the second criminal that they would be together in paradise.

THINK ABOUT IT

Is this the end of the story?

At noon the sky darkened, the sun stopped shining, the temple curtain split apart, and Jesus uttered his last words, "Father, I am in your hands." Then he died. The friends of Jesus stood at the edge of the crowd and sadly watched.

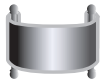




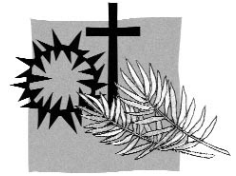
Some people observe Lent by giving something up that is valuable to them. If you try this practice, what will you give up? Make a list of possibilities here.



Hope in Lent and Holy Week



Here's the Story (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



A DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

The drama that took place on the streets of Jerusalem and outside the city walls was startling. What happened there has been retold over and over again. It has had a lasting impact on our lives. Every year during Lent, we revisit what happened then. If you were the director of a play that portrays what happened to Jesus in his last days on earth, what notes would you make in the pages of your director's notebook? Use the Bible references to guide you.

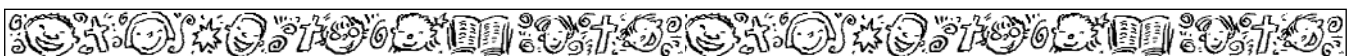
ACT 1
Mark 14:3-9
Setting:
Characters:
Props:
Action:

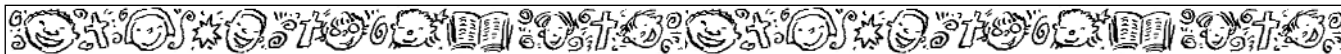
ACT 2 SCENE 1
Luke 23:13-25
Setting:
Characters:
Props:
Action:

ACT 2 SCENE 2
Luke 23:26-43
Setting:
Characters:
Props:
Action:

ACT 2 SCENE 3
Luke 23:44-49
Setting:
Characters:
Props:
Action:

ACT 3
Luke 23:50-56
Setting:
Characters:
Props:
Action:





Note Home



The word *Lent* comes from an old English word that refers to the coming of spring. The arrival of spring inspires us to sort through our possessions: to throw out, to polish, to shine, to clean up, and to organize. Essentially, that is what we do during Lent. We look inward, we remember, and then we ask for forgiveness. Read Mark 14:3-9 and Luke 23:13-56 with your child. These are our invitations to change. Talk with your child about ways you can “clean house” during Lent.

Family Time



Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. What goals can your family set to prepare the way for Easter in your life? Begin by displaying a cross in a room that is frequently used by all of your family members. Drape it with a purple or black ribbon. Set aside some personal time for Bible reading the first thing in the morning or just before going to bed at night in place of the usual bedtime story. Young children can spend their alone time looking at Bible storybooks or videos. Allow time to read the Bible together as a family, too.

Church Year Tunes



Listen to the first verse only of Track 8, “Were You There” on the music CD. Listen to it two or three times. Ask your child what he or she thinks people who were actually there to witness Jesus’ sacrifice may have been thinking during the event. Ask your child what he or she would have thought had he or she been there as well.

Pray Together



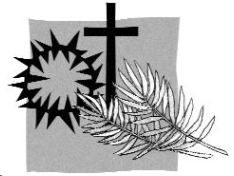
Dear God, inspire us to find the time to read, to hear, and to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice of your son, Jesus. Amen



Hope in Lent and Holy Week

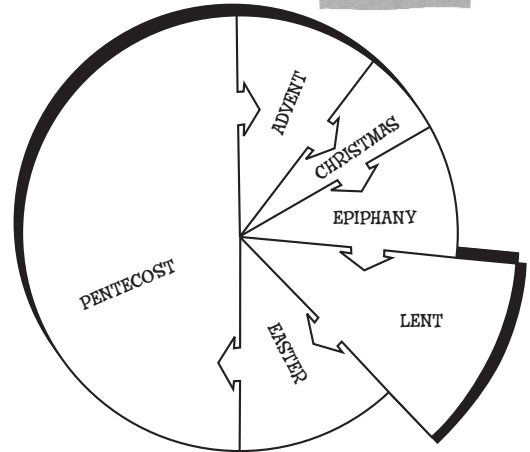


Here's the Theme (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



DAYS OF LENT

How many days and nights did Noah and his ark full of animals float upon the waters? (Genesis 7:4) How many years did the chosen people of Israel wander in the desert? (Numbers 32:13) How many days did Jesus fast in the wilderness? (Matthew 4:2) Applaud yourself if you answered 40 to each of these questions. And, there is one more: The church season of Lent lasts for 40 days plus six Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Maundy Thursday.

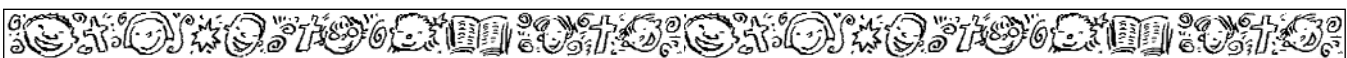


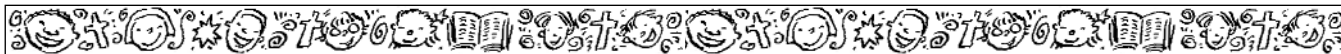
Start at the upper left arrow and connect the dots to reveal the center of our thoughts during these 40 days of Lent. Starting at the first number, when you connect each dot, put the letter that matches the number by the dot on the line to complete this sentence.

Lent is a time to _____, or to _____
our actions _____.

↗7 •	• 3 ↘		
2 •	• 6		
↗9 •	↗4 •	• 3 ↗	• 4 ↘
↗5 •	↘7 •	• 8 ↘	• 8 ↗
1 •	• 9		
↗4 •	• 7 ↗		

Code:
1=a
2=d
3=e
4=n
5=o
6=p
7=r
8=t
9=u





Note Home



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This day is not observed in the Bible, but it has become a day marked on the church calendar for individual preparation for the six-week period of reflection that lasts until Easter Eve. During Ash Wednesday services, a cross is marked with ashes on the forehead of each worshiper. The pastor announces, "From dust you have come and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19) Talk to your child about how the events of the Lenten season paired with the resurrection on Easter give us a special identity and hope for a life that is eternal.

Church Year Tunes

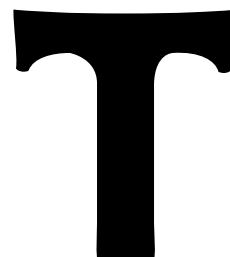


Listen to Track 9, "Jesus, Remember Me," on the music CD. Use this song during your prayer times this week, playing it softly in the background.

Family Time



The cross has become a liturgical symbol and it became such with Jesus' death. It remains on display in our churches and in our homes throughout the year as a constant reminder of what Jesus did for us and as a sign of our relationship with God. Find and arrange to display all of the crosses in your house. Notice that all crosses are not the same. Some believe the Tau cross is the one on which Jesus was crucified. Ask a family member to search the web to find pictures and description of other crosses. Learn the names of some of these crosses. End your prayers this week with the sign of the cross.



Tau cross

Pray Together



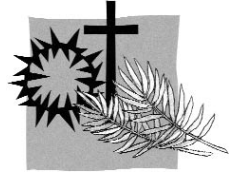
Jesus, Savior of all, you gave your precious life for us on the cross because you love us. Help us to remember your sacrifice each time we see the cross. Amen



Hope in Lent and Holy Week



The Story and Me (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)



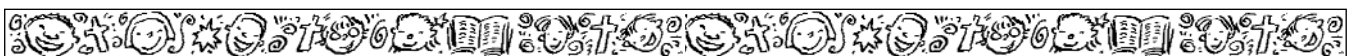
LENT IN MY LIFE

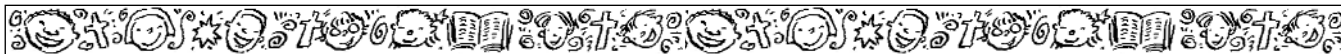
Lent is a time of preparation for the joyful message of Jesus' resurrection that we will hear at Easter. In the early years of the church, Lent was set aside for those who wished to become a part of God's family in Baptism to prepare, to fast, and to learn. Today we look at Lent as a time when we grow in our faith and explore God's presence in our lives. We make changes in our commitment to be examples of God's love. What can you do during Lent to change your life? Locate some key words in the Word Search. They go up and down, across and diagonally. Circle the words you find and use them to complete the sentences, which offer suggestions for our lives.

m f u y a r p w
e n i n v i t e
d m r s h q l b
i r e f l e c t
t i a b x r a z
a w d h r a t r
t w o r s h i p
e n p a d s g k

Hear
Invite
Meditate
Pray
Read
Reflect
Share
Worship

1. _____ or _____ what the Bible tells us about Jesus' suffering and death.
2. _____ on Jesus' action for us.
3. _____ on what we do in our lives and how we can change what we do to show Jesus lives in our actions.
4. _____ others to join us in worship.
5. _____ with others what God has done for us.
6. _____ for God's forgiveness for the times when we forget what God has asked us to do.
7. Renew and strengthen your faith by attending _____ services during Lent.





Note Home



Lent is not only about Jesus, his temptation, his trials, and his crucifixion—it is also about us. The Bible readings and hymns of Lent emphasize a spiritual renewal and discipleship. In this session, your child heard about what his or her response could be to what God has done for us. Use the opposite side of this sheet to explore these opportunities. Which ones can you do together during Lent? God offered us Jesus, the ultimate gift of love. As God’s disciples, what love can we offer?

Family Time



During Lent we are encouraged to be disciples and to act out our discipleship. What can your family do? One suggestion is to have the children design a container to set on your table. Place all loose change in the container. Give the younger members of the family easy tasks to do as their way to have some money to contribute. Decide early in the project to whom this gift can go, such as a safe house, a refugee project, or a food pantry. Make certain everyone understands what this act of discipleship is about. This makes an additional incentive for giving.

Church Year Tunes



Listen to verses 2-3 only of Track 8, “Were You There” on the music CD. Choose to read two of the accounts of Jesus’ crucifixion with your child from Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, or John 19. Are there any differences between the two accounts you read? What are they? Do they change the meaning of the story at all?

Pray Together



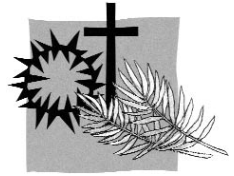
God of all people, we pray for those who are unhappy, frightened, ill, lonesome, or hungry. We pray especially for [names]. Use us, your disciples, to bring them your love. Amen



Hope in Lent and Holy Week



The Story and My Church (Mark 14:3-9; Luke 23:13-56)

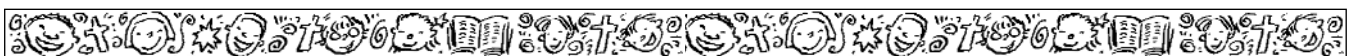


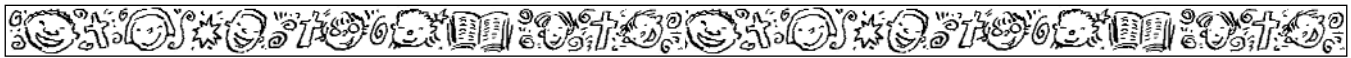
HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is another name for the final seven days of Lent. The dramatic and important events that happened during this time tell the story of our faith. The worshipping community observes these events with special services and remembers its meaning by first singing joyful songs worthy of a king, then sharing the Last Supper, stripping the altar of all of its decorations, draping the cross with a black cloth, and extinguishing all lights. Traditionally, the color for Holy Week is red, but black may be used on Good Friday. Complete the calendar using your Bible to briefly record what happened on each day of Holy Week.

PALM SUNDAY Mark 11:1-11	MONDAY Matthew 21:1-7	TUESDAY Jesus preached using parables. What parable is in Matthew 22:1-14?
WEDNESDAY Jesus rested.	MAUNDY THURSDAY Mark 14:12-26	GOOD FRIDAY Luke 23:13-56
		SATURDAY Holy Saturday and the Jewish Sabbath

Holy Week





Note Home



The end is near. Holy Week records the final actions in Jesus' life. It ends the Season of Lent. Review these events using the Holy Week calendar on the opposite side of this page with your child. Talk about the ways your worshiping community observes these significant events in our lives. Special worship services planned for this week increase the meaning and the impact of the passion of Christ. After attending a service, point out the meaning of the Holy Communion meal and the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday narrative of Jesus' suffering and death or the *Tenebrae* (a service of shadows), and the Easter Vigil that begins Saturday at sundown.

Family Time



Jesus' last meal with his disciples is remembered in the celebration during Holy Week of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. Jesus added Holy Communion to the traditional Passover, or Seder, so that we would remember what he did for all people. Read Exodus 12–14 to recall the very first Passover, when the Jews prepared to leave Egypt. Select foods for your Maundy Thursday evening meal that reflect some of the foods Jesus may have eaten at this celebration: hard-cooked eggs, matzah bread, roast lamb, charoses (a mixture of finely chopped apples, nuts, a little apple juice, and cinnamon), and karpas (parsley, celery, lettuce, onion, or potatoes may be used).

Church Year Tunes



Listen to Track 8, "Were You There" on the music CD in its entirety. After each verse, pause the song and invite your child to say a prayer of thanks to Jesus for what he did for us.

Pray Together



Giving God, direct our thoughts this Holy Week to the greatest sacrifice of all, the suffering and death of your son, Jesus, for us.
Amen

