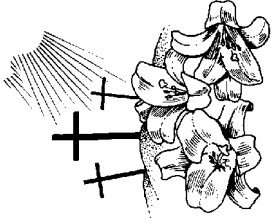


Christian Education Bulletin Insert

April, 03

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Lent continued

Make pretzels to remind you to pray during this season. The pretzel shape reminds us of arms folded across the chest in prayer. Use 1 pkg dry yeast, 3 to 4 cups flour, 1 Tblsp sugar, 1 teasp salt, 1 Tblsp warm water. Pour the warm water over the yeast and sugar and let stand about 5 mins. Mix the flour and salt and add the yeast mix. Knead it for about 7 mins, adding more flour if needed to make a firm dough. Put it in a greased bowl and let rise until doubled. Heat oven to 475 °F. Divide the dough into about 30 parts and roll each part into a sausage shape. Then twist it to look like a pretzel. Bake on a greased cookie sheet about 10 mins.

Palm Sunday, April 13

Read the story of the arrival of the Queen of Sheba to see King Solomon in I Kings 10:1-13. Then read the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. (Mark 11:1-10) Talk about the differences.

There is a legend about the donkey. It is said there was once a donkey who was so lazy that his owner decided to have him put down since he could no longer afford to feed him. The man's children were very sad and persuaded him to sell the donkey instead. "No-one will buy a lazy donkey," said their father, but, in order not to upset them, he made a "Free to a Good Home" sign. He left it beside the donkey, which he tied to a tree. The next day two of Jesus' disciples came upon the donkey and took it for their master to ride into Jerusalem. Jesus blessed the donkey and, ever since that day, Castilian donkeys have had a cross on their backs as a reminder that Jesus rode one on this very special day.

Holy Week, between Palm Sunday and Easter

Make an Easter newspaper to share with your family and friends. All members of the family could contribute. Give it a name and decide how big you would like it to be. Will it be black and white or will you have some colour? Will you type your stories on a computer, or hand print them?

Read the stories in a suitable Bible from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Mk 11:1-10) through the tuning over of the tables in the Temple (Mk 11:15-18) to the Passover meal, Gethsemane, Jesus Arrest, the Trial, the Crucifixion, Burial and Resurrection (Mk 14:12- 16:20)

Think up some suitable headings. E.g. Mob Welcomes Prophet, Commotion in Temple, Man Sentenced to Die, Weather: Abnormal Darkness Friday, Woman Stunned to See Dead Man Alive. Write your stories and illustrate them. Sometimes it works better to have one person write the story and another do the picture. Assemble the stories into a newspaper format.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Go for an Easter walk to see if you can find any sign of new life - buds, baby animals etc. Maybe you could visit somewhere where there are lambs or chicks. Flowing water is also a sign of spring and is sometimes mentioned in the Bible to mean eternal life.

Make a large poster showing some symbols of the resurrection. You might include some of the following:

A picture of **Daniel and a lion or two**. Daniel was saved from death because an angel stopped the lions from eating him when he was thrown into the lion's den. (Daniel 6: 7-23)

A **dolphin or whale** picture to represent the story of Jonah who was inside the big fish for three days. (Jonah, ch 1 and 2)

Two open gates to show that Heaven and Hell were opened up by Jesus. A **pomegranate**, pictured open with the seeds bursting out. (You may need to get a pomegranate to show children, and, of course, to eat it!)

Lilies - the large white flowers are symbolic of the pure, new life which will come to us because of Jesus' death on the cross.

Butterflies to show how new life comes from something like a cocoon which appears dead.

Chicks - for the same reason.

For Fun

Why are people always tired in April?

Because they just finished a march lasting 31 days.