



Christian Education

Bulletin Insert

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A Lenten Reminder to use at home - a focus for family discussion.

Make a 'wilderness tray.' Use a shallow tray - a baking tray will do - and put a thin layer of sand in it. Read the lesson for **February 29, Lent I** (Luke 4:1-13) from the Bible or the story of Jesus' temptations in the desert from a children's Bible story book. Talk about how Jesus went into the desert alone, away from everything that might have distracted him, so that he could pray and think about what God wanted him to do. His time with God strengthened him for the years to come. Have each person in the family run his/her hands through the sand on the tray, and think of a special place where they might go to think about God and pray.

March 7, Lent 2 (Luke 13:31-35) Jesus prays for the city of Jerusalem. Talk about the stories in the local newspaper. Is anything happening in your community which you think would make Jesus sad? What worries or annoys you? Clip a short passage or two and place them on your wilderness tray.

March 14, Lent 3 (Luke 13:6-9) The story of the fig tree and a second chance. Talk about times when someone has given you a second chance. Put a small dish of water in your wilderness tray. When you pass the tray this week, dip your fingers in it and thank God for the second chances you have had.

March 21, Lent 4 (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32) The parable of the lost son. Talk about being welcomed when you come home from work or school, and how you welcome guests into your home. Remember that God is always happy to talk to us. Put something in the tray to remind you of being welcomed - a cookie, a picture of a hug, or something that means 'welcome' to you.

March 28, Lent 5 (John 12:1-8) Mary's extravagant gift. Do you know someone who is having a difficult time? What could you do to show the sort of generous love to that person that Mary showed to Jesus? Put something in the wilderness tray that is precious to your family - a favourite photo for example.

April 4, Palm Sunday (Luke 19:28-40) put one of your palm crosses in your wilderness tray.

(This material has been adapted slightly from the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum Home Pages)

A Lenten Tree

Make a simple cross-shaped tree, about 35 cms high, out of brown paper. You need only a tall trunk with two slightly angled branches, one on each side. Stick the tree to a sheet of bristol board. Make a number of simple leaf shapes. It is easiest if you use gummed paper, but use construction paper if you don't mind glueing. Make also six flower shapes, or get flower stickers, and have some small treats ready such as bite-sized candy bars. Each weekday in Lent each member of the family thinks of a good deed and puts a leaf on the tree to represent what they have done. Each Sunday each member adds a flower and has a small treat (Sundays are not included in the Lenten fast) On Easter Day add a whole bouquet of paper flowers and/or balloons to your poster.

March 17, St. Patrick's Day

Read the story of St. Patrick. If you type "St. Patrick's Day" into your search engine, you will find many sites on which the legend is told. Alternatively, borrow a book from your public library or buy one. Talk about how St. Patrick forgave the very people who had taken him away from family and friends and made him a slave and spent much time and energy sharing the gospel with them. Forgiveness is not easy and this may be an opportunity to discuss the difference it can make in people's lives.

March 25, The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

On this date, nine months before Christmas Day, the Church remembers how God announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ. Read Luke 1:26-38, or read Mary's song on this occasion, the Magnificat, from your prayer book (BCP p. 21) Wear something blue to school or work today to remember Mary and be ready to tell people why. Perhaps you could also use some blue napkins at supper tonight.

For Fun

Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

Regular rocks are too