

Welcome to the Season of Lent for Church, Community & Home

The Season of Lent is a time for developing our relationship with God together as we journey towards Easter

As we journey, let's focus on:

- Being created & sustained by God
- Being close to God, family & friends
- Giving, praying & yielding
- Receiving blessings, love & wisdom

These are the pages with suggested guidelines:

Ash Wednesday: Reflect & Pray

Ash Wednesday: Finger Labyrinth

Week 1: Jesus Is Our Friend

Week 2: We Can Be Friends

Week 3: We Are Important to God

Week 4: We Are Thankful to God

Week 5: God Cares for Us

Week 6: We Can Help & Care



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Journey Together Through the Season of Lent

Some Guidelines



The following pages are for church, community and home settings.

These could be used as they are, or as a base, according to interests, needs and preferences.

Each page has Scripture passages that could be read and listened to using a Bible, a children's Bible story book and sound recordings. Video recordings could also be viewed. How about using a combination of these?

There are some reflections and questions pertaining to the Scripture passages. These may lead on to further questions, discussion and exploration.

Some suggested guided responses are presented. Tailor these to your context while adding some of your own as necessary. You may like to create and source related music and songs.

There is an intentional steering away from template type activities so that individual, and collaborative, creativity, expression and interactions are nurtured.

Included are some prayer prompts to encourage engaging with God in prayer.

One available resource for inspiring prayers during the Season of Lent is the Prayer Pads from Mainly Ministries:

mainlyministries.org.nz/collections/new/products/prayer-pad



Ash Wednesday

The beginning of the Season of Lent
- when we focus on drawing closer
to God together

Connecting with family, friends and God

We can use
labyrinths or
spirals with our
senses for
prayer and
contemplation
as we slowly
journey through
them

Create a labyrinth or a spiral with
leaves, paper, sand, cardboard,
rocks, clay or with other items

Discover how Jesus
prayed in Matthew 6

Create space and time to reflect and pray



How can we become closer
to God and to others?



This could be inside or outside

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Here we have our own, personal labyrinth we can "walk" with a finger. You may want to trace the path in a slow, deliberate, relaxing way. You might journey back and forth to the centre of the labyrinth several times. You could try it with the hand you do not usually use to write or throw, for a challenge.



Week 1: Jesus Is Our Friend

Read together and discover about Jesus being our friend in
Matthew 18:1-5, 19:13-15 or in Mark 10:13-16 or in Luke 18:15-17



God's love is free, like a gift
Jesus always has time for everyone
Jesus wants to be with us



After reading or listening or
singing about Jesus being our
friend:
Draw or paint a picture
Make up a dance
Create with clay, play dough
or plasticine
Or make anything else!

Talk with God about:
What you have been making
God loves your creation and God loves you!



Week 2: We Can Be Friends

Jesus is a Friend to everyone
Which friend is in Luke 19:1-10?



We can be friends with people:

- in our whānau
- in our neighbourhood
- at church
- at school
- at after school activities

Where else?



Talk with God about:

Why it can be fun being a friend and why it can be difficult

God wants to celebrate with you and to guide you

Think about being a friend
What could you talk about?
What could you share?
What fun games could you play together?

Think about what you could make for a friend

Find some ideas at this link:
churchinaquitaine.org/images/stories/pdf_files/40act_skidswallchart.pdf

Week 3: We Are Important to God

Shepherds love their sheep
They know each sheep by name

How would a shepherd feel if they lost a sheep?

How would they feel if they found their sheep?

What would they do?

Read together and discover what was lost and found in Luke 15:1-7?



Have you ever lost something then found it again?

Tell someone or

Write it down or

Draw about it

What could you find and make to tell the story Jesus told in Luke 15:1-7?

Share the story with others using what you have found and made

Talk with God about:

How you are feeling right now

Any questions you have about this story that Jesus told

What you have been discovering today



Week 4: We Are Thankful to God

David wrote a song about God's love for you in Psalm 23.
Read it together.



Who looks after us?
Like a shepherd loves
their sheep, God looks
after us
A Good Shepherd came to
lead us to God's heart
Who is the Good
Shepherd?

*Wherever I go I know
God's Never Stopping
Never Giving Up
Unbreaking
Always and Forever Love
Will go, too! **

*The Jesus Storybook Bible
S. Lloyd-Jones 2007 p. 134

Build a block tower and thank
God for something as each
block is placed
Write or draw on pieces of
paper what you are thankful to
God for then put them into a
jar
When you open the jar, enjoy
seeing what is on the pieces of
paper

Talk with God about:
What you think about God's love for you and for others?

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Week 5: God Cares for Us

Genesis 1 & 2: God created a place for us to live



Think about all that God
created – there is a lot!
What do you like about
what God has made?
The earth is just the right
place for us to be
How can we look after
where we live?



Walk, dance and run outside
Then stop!
What do you see and hear?
Lie down and watch the sky
If you could go anywhere,
which parts of God's creation
would you like to explore?

Talk with God about:
What you like about God's creation
(in the sky, in the sea and on the land)



Week 6: We Can Help & Care

Who cared for someone who was injured in Luke 10:25-37?



Why do you think some people did not stop to help?

What made one person stop to care?

How was the injured person looked after?

Are our neighbours people who live near us?

Find some ideas at this link:
churchinaquitaine.org/images/stories/pdf/files/40actskidswallchart.pdf

Talk with God about:

What you may like to do for someone else



How can we care for other people?

We could find out what they need

Contact them

Make something for them

Give them something