

Lent | Easter- Giving

SPECIFIC FOCUS ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS

Early years

Growing

Explore

- If possible bring in some eggs to hatch

Reveal

- Ensure that the prayer focus has a purple drape, ask some children to help put the drape on the table along with suitable artefacts for Lent; a candle, a plant growing, a simple Cross
- There are special colours for special times of the year. At this time of the year we have purple. Have a range of purple coloured objects for the children to handle; material, beads, toys, feathers, shiny paper. We thank God for the colour purple.
- Make a turn-taking song where children choose an action they are going to try to do more of in Lent i.e. share a smile

- Sing to the tune; *Skip to my lou*

What shall we do to grow in love x3

In this time of lent

- This could link with how I love my mum more re mother's day and making heart shaped biscuits

Scripture Luke 2 51,52 Jesus grows up in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph

- Song activity with props/pictures, symbols to explore how Jesus grew in love with his family
- Dress children as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with props for doing jobs like e.g. chopping the wood, mixing the bread, sweeping the floor, saying their prayers. Sing: *This the way we sweep the floor* etc. to the tune *Here we go round the Mulberry bush*
- Each child to make a small Easter Garden in plastic container to take home allow children to experience and explore the sensory properties aspects of materials used in the creation of an Easter garden

<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Change</p> <p>Explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a selection of object or picture representing the seasons: e.g. leaves, bulbs, picture of the sun, picture of snow, it would be good if the pictures had children in them etc. Put into order; use the Widgit emotion symbols to express feelings about each season. Put such pictures on the white board and allow children to move them around in order • Children to bring pictures of themselves as babies and notice how they have changed • Use the animal and their young activity from the <i>Come and See</i> website <p>Reveal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Widgit symbol supported text resource <i>Grow and Change</i> lotto to engage children in sorting, matching activities to begin to develop awareness of how we grow and change, how things around us in God's world grow and change and how Lent is a time when we can grow to be more like Jesus e.g. Play the game as a lotto mediating a message about each picture as it is placed on the board • Introduce the concept of <i>change</i> through modelling and remodelling clay or other modelling materials e.g. into different shapes use these as symbols in a Lent liturgy to develop an awareness of how we try to change to be better people more like Jesus and especially focus during Lent • Using <i>I grow like Jesus</i> Widgit symbols and invite children to choose from an array of symbols to put on a card to hang on a Lent tree, see the activity on page 134 <p>Scripture: Luke 23 33-35, 38-43, Use <i>God's Story 1</i> pages 34 or <i>Church's Story 1</i> page 42-43</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <p>Explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the children in making choices that have relevance in their lives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities connected with purple: see Early Years <p>Reveal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce opportunities for children to make items that can be sold to raise money to help others in Lent e.g. CAFOD, use the CAFOD gift choices to choose what to put the money to e.g. buy chickens, schools books, football etc. • Sing: <i>Let there be love shared among us</i> (Hymns Old and New number 425) or something similar • Provide symbols so children can choose 1 action they would like to do in Lent to put in basket/ or envelope with their name on it and place it on prayer focus, this could be done as part of class worship • Draw the children’s attention to why the people were so happy to welcome Jesus and raise their awareness of the good choices Jesus made during his ministry i.e. What did Jesus do to show God’s love for everybody? Use Boardmaker or Widgit symbols • Look for Widgit symbols lotto <i>I grow more like Jesus</i> • Simple ritual of washing of the hands instead of feet • Use different alleluias to convey celebratory mood: <i>Jesus is alive</i> and <i>This is the day</i> (Hymns Old and New number 684) with sing with instruments • Easter Sunday use <i>God’s Story 1</i> page 35
Year 3	<p>Giving all</p> <p>Explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give the children a variety of pictures of people doing jobs, including some which are dangerous. Ask the children to choose which they think are dangerous and say why • Use people inside and outside school to share how they <i>give</i> through the different jobs they do. Use the Widgit feeling emotions symbols <p>Reveal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Widgit Lent symbols to represent what Lent means, say what they think they mean

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the <i>people in need</i> activity from the <i>Come and See</i> website <p>Scripture Mark 14 the garden of Gethsemane</p> <p><i>After the Last Supper Jesus took his friends to a nearby garden called Gethsemane. Jesus wanted some company while he was praying because he knew what was soon going to happen to him. His friends fell asleep but Jesus prayed to God his Father to help him during the difficult time ahead. Suddenly some soldiers came to arrest him and take him away.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing Use Taize chant <i>Stay with me, remain with me,</i> • LF 5 use <i>God's Story 2</i> page 78
Year 4	<p>Self discipline</p> <p>Explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think of a skill you have: Use Widgit emotion symbols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How did you learn it? ○ How do you practice it? ○ How do you feel about it? <p>Reveal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the colour purple and what it means • Have some ashes that children are able to see: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where do they come from? (burnt palms from Palm Sunday) ○ What do they look like? ○ Why are ashes used on Ash Wednesday? • LF 2 Use <i>Church' Story 2</i> pages 66-67 • Talk how you can give to others and that means <i>self giving</i> <p>Scripture: Luke 6</p> <p><i>Jesus says, love everyone including those who are unkind to you. Pray for them. If you only love people who are nice to you that is easy. Even give thing to people who you know won't give you anything, you will be living</i></p>

	<p><i>as a friend of God our Father. God is kind to everyone</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LF5 Church's Story 2 pages 72-73
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Sacrifice</p> <p>Explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sensitive to the children in the class who need care themselves and towards those who are carers themselves. The story may need to be adapted. <p>Reveal</p> <p>Scripture Luke</p> <p><i>After Jesus was baptised he went into the desert because it was quiet place, to pray to get ready for his life ahead. It was quite hard in the desert. While he was there he was hungry and he felt tempted to turn stones into bread. But he did not give in.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a class Lent calendar with ideas of some things which could be done together. Use this in the prayer focus • LF 2 read the story of Judas Iscariot from <i>Friends of Jesus</i> (V. Hummell) <p>Scripture Mark 14 the garden of Gethsemane</p> <p><i>After the Last Supper Jesus took his disciples to a nearby garden called Gethsemane. Jesus wanted some company while he was praying because he knew what was soon going to happen to him. His friends fell asleep, Jesus woke them up and asked them to watch with him, but they fell asleep again. Jesus continued pray to God his Father to ask for his help during the difficult time ahead. Suddenly some soldiers, led by Judas came to arrest Jesus and take him away. Some of the disciples tried to stop the soldiers but Jesus told them not to.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing Use Taize chant <i>Stay with me, remain with me,</i> • LF 5 Give the children 5 small footprints on which are written the names of each Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. Ask the children to put them in order in their books and illustrate them. • Make a cardboard Easter candle decorate it, sing the <i>Light of Christ</i>

Year 6

Death and new life

Explore

- It might be helpful to talk about the death of a pet and how that affects people. Use the Widgit emotions symbols

Reveal

- Use Widgit symbols in the Lenten journal

Scripture LF2 John 6

Sometimes Jesus said things which were very difficult to understand. One day he said he was the bread of life. Anyone who is his friend will not be hungry. Jesus gives his friends life and love, will never end.

- Use the pictures from *Church's Story 2* pages 66-67 to say how we can share Jesus' love and life with others.

LF3

- If possible have some real ears of wheat or grains of wheat, grind them down to look like flour, or grow some grain of wheat, and see what happens to the original grain when it grows
- Refer back to the activity in LF2; what had to be given up to be kind to others.

LF5

- Make a model of Calvary, either with earth/compost, make some crosses out of twigs etc. (later turn this into an Easter Garden)