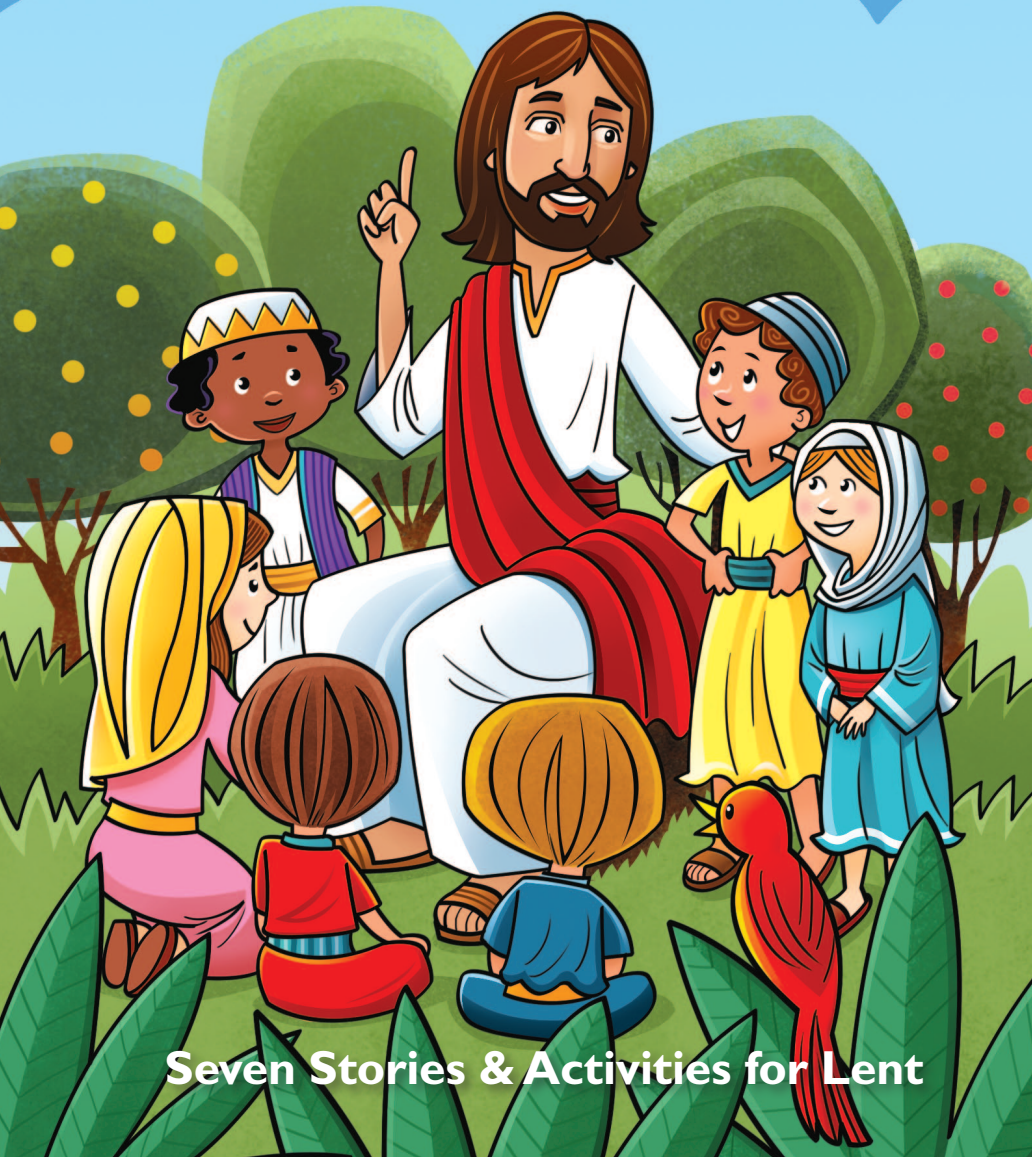


Welcome to Jesus' World



Seven Stories & Activities for Lent



Introduction

Welcome to Jesus' World Seven Stories for Lent

Lent is a time when we want to become better friends with Jesus. As we learn about him, we realize he often sees things differently than we do and invites us to change our lives to be like him. Jesus sees everything and everyone in a new way because he sees things the way God does—which is not always the way we do.

Lent invites us to see everything in a new way! We wash up in the morning, but on Ash Wednesday we get soot on our foreheads. We like to eat treats, but in Lent we try simple food. We spend money on fun, but in Lent we share more money with the poor.

This Lent let us enter into Jesus' world through seven stories about him that help us discover how he sees things and understands people and how we might act to be more like him. What new world will YOU see this Lent by listening to these stories about Jesus?

Ash Wednesday

**Your Father knows what you need
before you ask. –Matthew. 6:8**

People come from all around when Jesus sits at the top of a mountain to teach. That's different. Although in Jesus' day, there were schools for learning, Jesus chooses a new place for a new teaching.

So first Jesus takes his "students" mountain climbing! Then he teaches his new message of good news. The world wants us to get rich, but Jesus says: Good news! It's the poor who will enter God's kingdom. Some people like to show off doing good things, but Jesus says: Good news! When you give money with one hand, don't even let your other hand know what you're doing.

Are we skipping candy or eating less food for Lent? Jesus teaches: Good news! We don't have to sulk. We can enjoy ourselves in brand new ways AND...



This piece of good news is backwards in the mirror above. Can you figure out a way to read it?

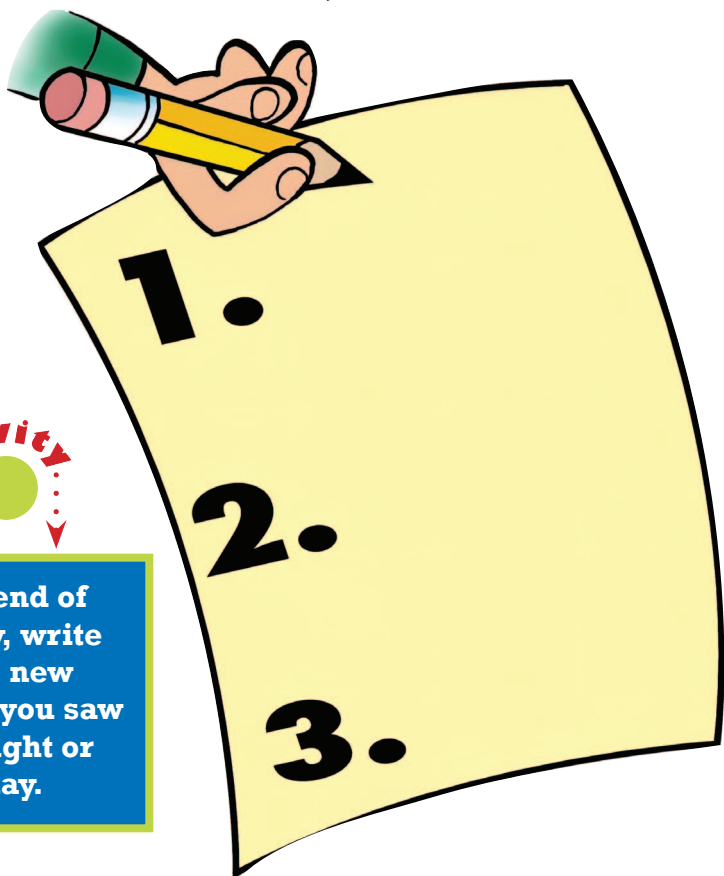
Thursday after Ash Wednesday

The Lord your God will bless you.

—Deuteronomy 30:16

One way God blesses us is by giving us Lent. Maybe Lent sounds like a strange blessing to us! What's so great about eating less, listening to God in prayer, spending more time in prayer, giving more money to others, or watching less TV?

Many times Jesus said to others: Come and see. When we turn the world upside down, we don't know what we'll see until we do it. Come and see. Live Lent today.



At the end of the day, write down 3 new things you saw or thought or did today.

Friday after Ash Wednesday

This, rather, is the fasting that I wish.

—Isaiah 58:6

When we think of fasting, we first think of eating less. But the prophet Isaiah sees the kind of fasting that God wants. It's not about eating less—it's about giving more. Isaiah lists all kinds of new ideas about fasting: setting people free, feeding the hungry and clothing those without enough warm clothes.

Isaiah sums all of these ideas up when he says: Not turning your back on your own.



Here's one way to fast in Isaiah's new way. Ask a family member to help you choose one good-looking, clean, warm item of clothing to give away. Do you still have enough to wear? That's what Isaiah means by fasting!

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

The Lord will guide you always.

—Isaiah 58:11

God gives us Lent to change our lives! We spend a little more time in prayer. We read the Bible a bit more often. We take a little less. We share a little more. We do these small things, and we find our lives aren't smaller but bigger—because God is with us.

In the Gospel of Luke, there's a story of a man named Levi. Jesus changes his life completely! Find the story in Luke 5:27-32. Then fill in the boxes below with your own words.



What does Jesus say to Levi?

What does Levi say to Jesus?



Sunday, the first week of Lent

**Then Jesus was led by the Spirit
into the desert. –Matthew 4:1**

The stories we read each Sunday in Lent are stories that show us God's new kind of world. Take this Sunday's story: Jesus has just been baptized. He has seen the heavens open above him. He has seen God's Spirit come to him. He has heard God's voice saying, "You are my beloved child!"

So where does Jesus go? Does he go out to find his friends? Does he party with good food and drink? Does he gather a crowd and begin teaching? Does he at least go home and think about things?

No. He goes apart to be alone with God. He doesn't eat anything at all. He doesn't teach: he listens. And he doesn't go home, but travels to the desert. For forty days! We'll take a long look at this story this week but first you need to find a Bible and learn how to use it.



Bible Verse Recipe

Ingredients: One Bible

1.

2.

3.



1. Can you find the Table of Contents?
2. Now look at the Table of Contents. Can you find the book of Matthew?

3. Now go to that page to find the book of Matthew. Can you find Matthew 4:1? That's chapter 4 and verse 1.

This is how you can find every verse we use this Lent!

Monday, the first week of Lent

**He fasted for forty days and
forty nights. –Matthew 4:2**

Forty is a number we run into a lot in the Bible. Practice your new “Bible Verse Recipe”—from page 7, if you missed it—by finding these verses with the number “40.”



While Noah was in the ark, it rained 40 _____
and 40 _____. (*Genesis 7:12*)

Moses was on the mountain top with God for
40 _____ and 40 _____. (*Exodus 24:18*)

Moses led God's people in the desert for
40 _____. (*Numbers 32:13*)

King David was king for 40 _____.
(*2 Samuel 5:4*)

Answer: days, nights, years, days, nights, years, days, nights, years

Tuesday, the first week of Lent

The tempter approached.

—Matthew 4:3

Jesus goes to the desert to be alone with God, but Satan the tempting devil is also there. The devil first says, “Wouldn’t you like to eat something good? Didn’t God call you his Son? If you’re the Son of God, you could make bread out of these stones!”

Jesus was a human being. He hadn’t eaten for “forty days,” which is the Bible’s way of saying, “A long time!” He was very hungry.

But he didn’t go to the desert to do magic. He went to the desert to listen to God.



To find out what Jesus said to this voice, follow his path in the desert. Just circle every other letter, and find a message from Jesus. (We circled the first 2 letters to help you get started. For a clue, see Matthew 4:4.)



Answer: One does not live by bread alone.

Wednesday, the first week of Lent

**You shall not put the Lord, your
God, to the test. –Matthew 4:7**

That tempting devil with Jesus in the desert didn't give up! "But you're the Son of God. Imagine you were standing on the top of God's temple—you could jump off and fly! You'd never get hurt, right?"



**That devil even quoted the Bible
to Jesus! The devil told Jesus:**

HINT... To see what Jesus answered, see Matthew 4:6.

**He will command
his  . . . with
their  they
will support  lest
 dash your
 against a **

Answer: He will command his angels...with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Thursday, the first week of Lent

The Lord your God shall you worship.

—Matthew 4:10

The devil still didn't leave Jesus alone. The devil said, "You're on a mountain top. Look around. Look at all the rich and powerful places on earth. I'll give them all to you—if you'll just bow down to ME!"

But Jesus never worshiped anyone or anything but God.

The word *worship* comes from an old English word for "worth." What is God worth to us? When do we choose God first?



On the mountain, draw one way you or your family puts God first.



Friday, the first week of Lent

Then the devil left him.

—Matthew 4:11

The devil gave up. Jesus wouldn't do magic tricks and turn stones into bread. Jesus wouldn't jump up off a roof and expect God to do a miracle to save him. Jesus wouldn't give up his love for God for all the riches or power in the world.



But Jesus wasn't all alone after the devil left. If 1=A, 10=J, and 26=Z, who came to be with Jesus?



n
1 14 7 5 12 19

Answer: angels

Saturday, the first week of Lent

Angels came and ministered to him.

—Matthew 4:11

Angels in the Bible never really looked like the angels we imagine now. Sometimes they were simply voices that people heard. Sometimes they looked like young men. Sometimes they looked like ferocious animals!

But angels in the Bible always do one thing: they bring messages from God. We don't know what messages the angels brought to Jesus, but if we look back at his baptism, we might be able to make a good guess.



To find out what message from God Jesus heard at his Baptism, unscramble these words. (Hint: you can find them in Matthew 3:17.)



This

hTsi si ym lboevde oSn

iwht hmow I ma llew selapde.

Answer: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Sunday, the second week of Lent

His face shone like the sun.

—Matthew 17:2

Now it's time for our second story that shows us God's new kind of world. In this week's story, Jesus takes three close friends to the top of the mountain when something amazing happens.

But the three friends of Jesus see a strange new sight, because suddenly their hiking friend, Jesus, is shining with God's glory.

So pack your backpack and come along with Jesus and his friends up the mountain for this week's story! We'll take water to drink and maybe a snack.

But list what else you need to travel with Jesus. We'll start your list with open eyes to see who he is. How about open ears to listen to what he says? An open heart to follow him anywhere? You decide!



Monday, the second week of Lent

Jesus led them up a high mountain.

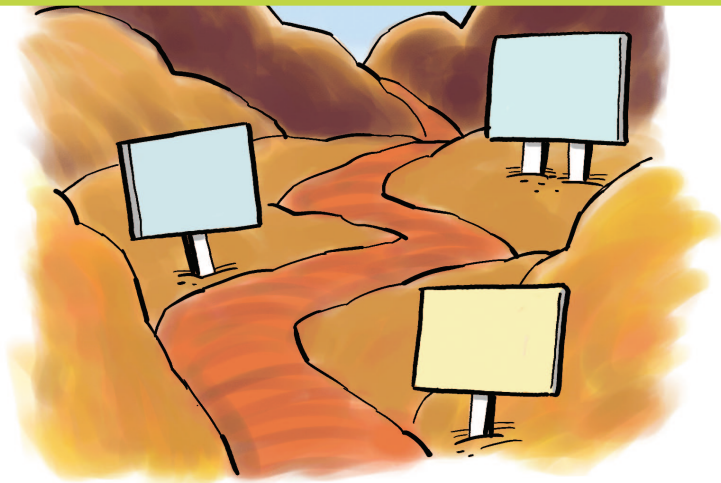
—Matthew 17:1

Climbing mountains is hard work, but it helps if you have a *leader* and a *path* to follow. The friends of Jesus learned that when they followed Jesus and walked in his path—they saw the world in a new way.

They could see how to live as Jesus lived. They could see how to love the whole world around them. They could see new ways to love others. And they could see how Jesus showed them how to love God most of all.



**On this mountain path, make signs to follow!
Draw or write one way to love the world, one way
to love other people, and one way to love God.
Climb the mountain, and see God's new world!**



Tuesday, the second week of Lent

He was transfigured before them.

—Matthew 17:2

The word transfigured is a long word that means change. Jesus was changed before his friends. The change was so strange, with Jesus shining like the sun, that his friends knew something big was happening.

What kind of changes would let the world know that something big happens when we put God and Jesus first in our lives? Imagine what the world would see if Christians fed all the poor. Imagine what the world would see if Christians made peace wherever they went.



Write a headline for the newspaper about a big change that would make the world see God's world in a brand new way!



Wednesday, the second week of Lent

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother. –Matthew 17:1

Jesus liked to be with his friends. In this week's story, we meet three "best friends" of Jesus: Peter, James, and John. This was a good time for these friends. Later, during the hardest week of Jesus' life, the same friends will go with Jesus to a garden. But even though Jesus is afraid and sad, they will not be able to stay awake and help him.

All three of these friends, though, stayed friends of Jesus for their whole lives. They loved Jesus the best they could. Jesus forgave them when they did wrong.



Think of a time a friend has forgiven you. Maybe they didn't say it, but they played with you again even though you had done something wrong. How did it make you feel?

Thursday, the second week of Lent

Moses and Elijah appeared to them.





—Matthew 17:3

On the mountain Jesus and his friends see Moses and Elijah, who have died many, many years before. Why does God send them now?

Moses gave God's People the Law. When God's People wanted to know how to live in God's world, they read the Law. Elijah was a prophet sent by God. When God's People, wanted to know how to understand God's Law, they listened to the prophets.



Now God says there's a new way to know what God wants. The friends of Jesus hear a voice say, "Listen to him." Listen to whom? Solve this code to find out!

E	
J	
S	
U	

J



Answer: Jesus

Friday, the second week of Lent

This is my beloved Son.

—Matthew 17:5

The friends of Jesus now hear the same words that Jesus heard when he was baptized: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Those words are for all of us who are baptized into Jesus. We, too, are God’s beloved children. God is well pleased with every single one of us.



On what day were you baptized? Write the date on the baptismal font.

Ask your parents:

Who was there when you were baptized?

What did you do when the priest poured water on you?

Who are your godparents?

What promises were made for you at baptism?

Saturday, the second week of Lent

Lord, it is good that we are here.

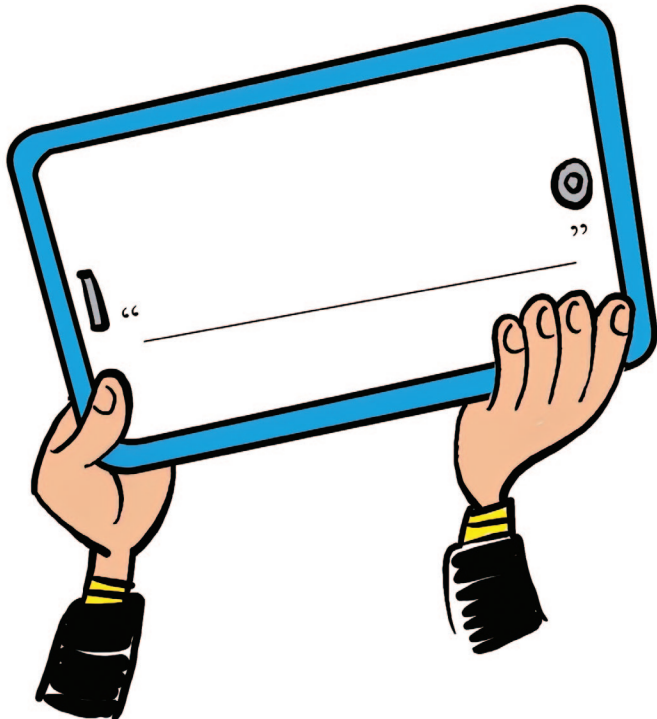
—Matthew 17:4

The friends of Jesus loved this mountain trip so much they wanted to stay there. But even though they saw Moses and Elijah, even though they heard the voice of God, and even though they all loved Jesus, they could not stay there. It was time to come down from the mountain.

Imagine you were there, too. What picture would you snap with your phone or camera to remember this time?



What words would you write on your picture? Look in Matthew 17:1-9 for ideas!



Sunday, the third week of Lent

He came to a town of Samaria.

—John 4:5

When Jesus went to Samaria, his friends really thought he was turning the world they knew upside down! Jesus and his friends were Jewish. At that time, Samaritans and Jews had quarreled with each other. They both wanted to love God, but they did not like the way each other lived. Jews in the time of Jesus didn't even talk to Samaritans!

So the friends of Jesus were surprised when one day he led them on a new path: a path through Samaria.

What gift from God do you think Jesus is bringing to Samaria? See John 4:10 for a clue!



Monday, the third week of Lent

**A woman of Samaria came
to draw water. –John 4:7**

In this story, the woman from Samaria does all kinds of things that puzzle us. It was hot noon when she came to the well, but most women came in the cool morning to draw water. She came alone, but most women came with their friends. She talked to Jesus—even though he was a Jew. (Remember, Jews and Samaritans didn't usually talk to each other.)



Jesus talked first though. To find out what he said, look at the letters floating on her bucket of water and put them in the sentence below!
(Hint: See John 4:7)



"_ G _ i _ _ e _ _ _ e _ a _ d _ i _ _ _."

Answer: Give me a drink.

Tuesday, the third week of Lent

Sir, you do not even have a bucket!

—John 4:11

Jesus and the woman were probably laughing together, because they are teasing each other! When the woman doesn't give him a drink right away, he teases her: "If you knew who I was, you'd be asking *ME* for water!" She teases right back: "Sir, you do not even have a bucket! And this is a DEEP well!"

But then Jesus gets serious. "Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst," he promises.

What kind of water could this be? Make a poem about this water. Use the letters below to write five words or sentences about the water Jesus offers to the whole world.



W _____

A _____

T _____

E _____

R _____

Wednesday, the third week of Lent

I know the Messiah is coming.

—John 4:25

When Jesus offers her the water of God's Holy Spirit, the woman wonders: Who can Jesus be? The Samaritans and Jews both believed that God would send a Messiah, someone full of God's Holy Spirit, to set the world right.

So the woman wonders: Does Jesus know when the Messiah would come?



To find out how Jesus answers her, use the letters on these 3 doves to make a short sentence!



I

Solution: I am he.

Thursday, the third week of Lent

The woman left her water jar and went into the town. –John 4:28

We hope thirsty Jesus got a drink, because the woman at the well was too excited to stay! Jesus had just told her, “I am the messiah, God’s chosen one.”

The Samaritan woman left her water jar and ran into town. She was no longer just a woman at a village well. She was now a prophet herself, telling people the good news of what God was doing. “Could this man possibly be God’s chosen one?”

God’s love is not just for Jesus. God’s love is not just for the friends of Jesus. God’s love is for all, so instead of a Jewish man, this time God chooses a Samaritan woman to be the prophet!

**Imagine it’s your turn to be the prophet.
What good news would you tell others
about God today?**





Friday, the third week of Lent

Could he possibly be the Messiah?

—John 4:29

The woman at the well figured it out! Jesus is God's *messiah*. In Latin, that name is *Christ*. Both Christ and Messiah mean "chosen one," and also "anointed one," that is, one on whom oil has been poured. (Pouring oil on someone made them a king or priest in Jesus' day.)

These words give us many names for Jesus: Messiah. Christ. King. Priest. Prophet. Can you make up your own name for Jesus and add it to the banner.



Saturday, the third week of Lent

This is truly the Savior of the world.

—John 4:42

Another name for Jesus in this story is Savior. Jesus, a Jew, comes to Samaria, where no one even wants to talk to him. By the time he leaves, the whole town calls him by the name *Savior*.

What did Jesus save? He saved the people of the town from anger. He made peace with them. He brought peace to them from God, too.



Imagine a world at peace. What words of Jesus could we remember as we try to make peace with others? Ask your family to talk this over at your next meal.



Sunday, the fourth week of Lent

He saw a man blind from birth.

—John 9:1

This can be a hard story to hear because it's about Jesus and a man who was born blind. The man had never seen anything until Jesus helped him.

But we don't know how to do what Jesus did. We don't know how to make blind people see. So how can we understand this story? Let's look at how things have changed.

In Jesus' day, people didn't understand how people could be born blind. Some teachers decided that God must not love blind people. They even taught that either the blind person or the person's parents did something bad, and that's why the baby was born blind.

We don't believe that any more, but Jesus didn't ever believe it. He changed that way of thinking forever.

Jesus knew God loved all people, and God wanted Jesus to love all people, too. Jews, Samaritans, men, women, children, people who could see and people who could not see: Jesus knows that God loves each and every person in the world.

Find a news story with a friend or family member. Find pictures of hard stories. Make a poster that says, "God loves..." then glue your pictures underneath the title. Ask your friend or family member to pray with you for each hard story that you find.



Monday, the fourth week of Lent

I am the light of the world.

—John 9:5



Go on a light hunt! There are seven different lights in the picture below. Can you find them all? As you find them, write one word of this prayer near each light you find:

Jesus is the light of the world.



Now ask your family if you can have dinner by candlelight tonight! Hunt up as many candles as you can from around the house. Ask a grownup to light the candles. As each candle is lit, family members can pray, "Jesus is the light of the world."

Tuesday, the fourth week of Lent

**Go wash in the pool of Siloam,
which means “sent.” –John 9:7**

We don't understand exactly what Jesus did next. The story tells us he spit in the dirt and mixed it up into mud. Then he put mud on the blind man's eyes. Then he told the man to go wash in a pool named Siloam.

That word means *sent*. Jesus was sent by God to do things even when he didn't know why. The blind man was sent by Jesus to do something even if he didn't know why.

The blind man did what Jesus said and he could see, for the first time in his life. Jesus did what God said, and the whole world could see what God wants in a new way.

Imagine God sends you today. Listen to your own heart. What small, good thing do you think God wants you to do today? Help someone with their work? Play with someone who's lonely? Call someone who likes to hear your voice? Where are you “sent” right now?



Wednesday, the fourth week of Lent

Those who do see might become blind.

—John 9:39

Jesus heals a man who had been blind from birth—but that's not the whole story. Some teachers were angry with Jesus, and they got even angrier when they heard this story. They told the healed man, "We don't believe this at all. We think Jesus is a bad man."

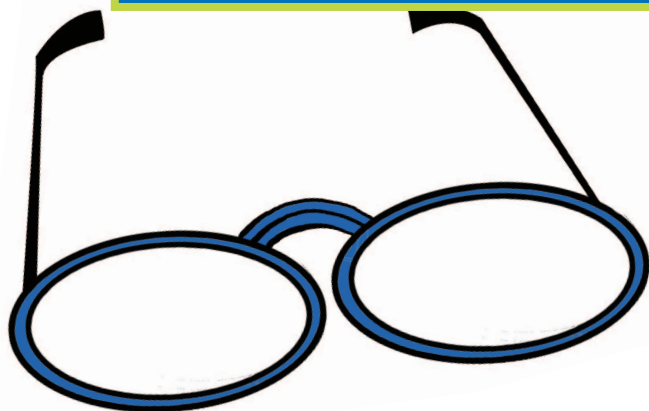
The healed man said, "How strange! He healed me and I believe he came from God." But they wouldn't listen to him at all.

Jesus said, "That's because **THEY** are the ones who can't see." Even when the man was still blind, he was willing to trust in Jesus. The angry teachers refused to see something true: that Jesus was doing God's work. That's why Jesus says they can't really "see."

Could they still see plants and their breakfast and the road outside? Yes. But they could not "see" Jesus as a good man from God.



In the glasses, write or draw two things you "see" about Jesus. What do you believe about him?



Thursday, the fourth week of Lent

Give God the praise!

—John 9:24

The sad part of this week's story is that the angry teachers wanted to do the same thing Jesus did: do good and praise God. The story teaches us that we can let anger change the good we want to do.

Both Jesus and the teachers grew up singing songs of praise to God called the psalms. One psalm of praise is Psalm 23, which praises God who takes such good care of us:

**“Only goodness and kindness follow me,
All the days of my life.”**

Even when we walk through hard times—God's goodness is with us.



Ask your family to make a “Goodness and kindness” list with you. We’ve given a few ideas to start you off, but you’ll need much more room than this book to write in!



Friday, the fourth week of Lent

Live as children of light.

—Ephesians 5:8

On Sunday, when the Church told the story of the man born blind, it also read from a letter to the early Church. In that letter, the writer told them—and us!—to live as children of light. We learn from the man of light: the man born blind. We...

- 1. Come to Jesus**
- 2. Trust in Jesus**
- 3. Do what Jesus tells us**



Ask two adults in your life: how did they learn to live in the light? Or how did they come to know Jesus?



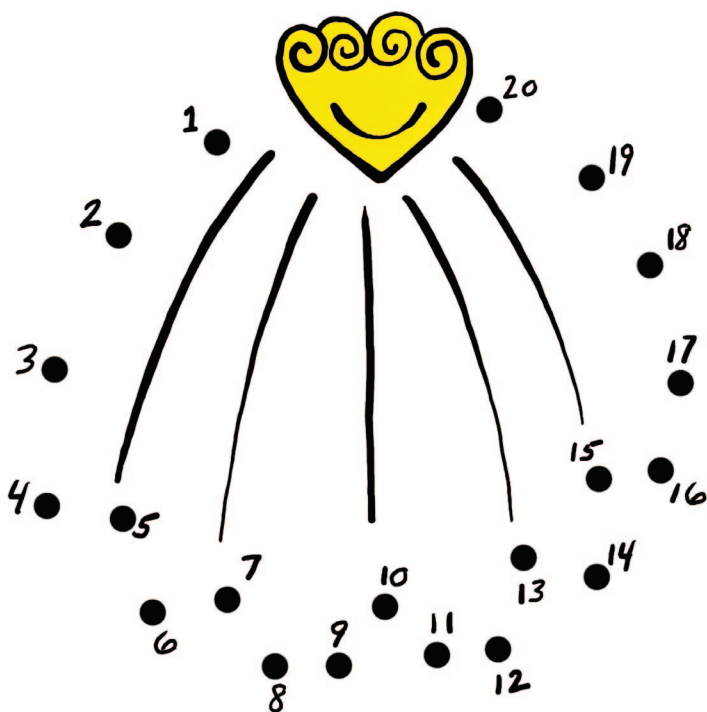
Saturday, the fourth week of Lent

**He went and washed and
came back able to see. –John 9:7**

The blind man went and washed in the water, and was able to see Jesus clearly. When we are washed in baptism, we are given light to see Jesus, too.



**Connect the dots to find a picture that
reminds us of baptism.**



Sunday, the fifth week of Lent

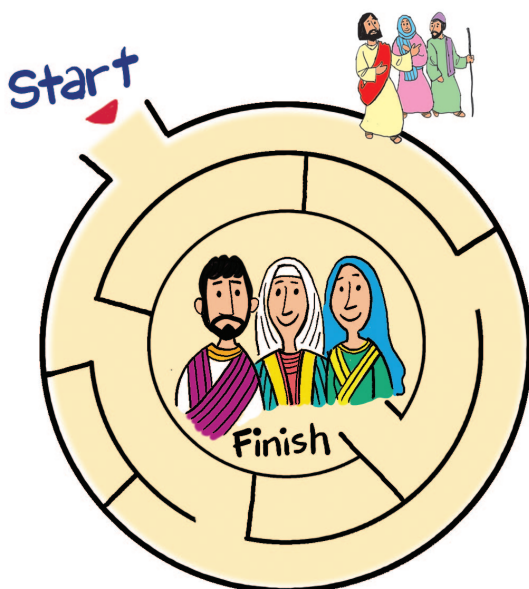
**Jesus loved Martha and her sister
and Lazarus. –John 11:5**

On the second Sunday of Lent we heard about three good friends of Jesus: Peter, James, and John. These are the friends who walked with Jesus and climbed the mountain with Jesus.

Now we hear about three more good friends of Jesus: Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. These are the friends who invited Jesus home and cooked good meals for him and sat and listened to him.



**In this maze, draw a road for Jesus
and his friends to follow, from the
mountain to the home of Lazarus,
Mary, and Martha!**



Monday, the fifth week of Lent

**Now a man was ill,
Lazarus from Bethany. –John 11:1**

This week's story starts out sad before it changes and becomes a story of joy. The time of Lent brings us to sad stories, but there's a secret about these stories. They turn to stories of joy.

One secret of Lent is that it isn't about Lent! Lent is a special time only because it gets us ready for a special feast: Easter. Lent is filled with stories about change, but this is good, glad news. No matter what hard things Lent brings us, we are getting ready for the feast of pure joy: the Easter feast of God.



What belongs to Lent? What belongs to Easter? Draw a line to the correct answer.

Lent

Story of Jesus' death

Story of Jesus' new life

purple

white

ashes on our foreheads

a beautiful candle

Easter

Tuesday, the fifth week of Lent

Our friend Lazarus is asleep.

—John 11:11

Lazarus died while Jesus and his friends walked to the home of his sisters, Martha and Mary. Martha said, “Lord, if you had been here, he wouldn’t have died.”

Jesus told her something more strange than anything we’ve heard of yet! He said, “Your brother will rise.”



What if it were you? What would you say to Jesus if you heard “Your brother will rise”? Ask your family members what they think, too.



Wednesday, the fifth week of Lent

I have come to believe.

—John 11:27

Martha said to Jesus, “I know he’ll rise when everyone does—at the end of time.” That’s what we call the “resurrection.” But Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Do you believe this?”

And Martha said yes and, “I believe.” We say words like “I believe” and “we believe” every week at Mass. Like Martha, we don’t mean we know what all the words mean. We mean that we trust in God and his Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God. Each of us joins in the belief of the Church in our own way.



**Write 3
things you
believe
about God.**

I BELIEVE . . .

I BELIEVE . . .

I BELIEVE . . .

Thursday, the fifth week of Lent

Mary came to where Jesus was.

—John 11:32

Mary said the exact same thing to Jesus that her sister did! “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” But she didn’t say anything else, and neither did Jesus. Instead they cried together.

And that’s where the story really changes. Jesus goes to a cave where they buried Lazarus. Jesus tells them to roll away the big stone that closed up the cave. Then Jesus cries out, “Lazarus, come out!”

What happens next?



**Use your Bible verse recipe.
(Look back to page 7.)**

Find:

- **The table of contents**
- **The book of John**
- **Chapter 11 in John**
- **Verse 44 in chapter 11.**

**Write down what you found—
or at least the first five words!**

Friday, the fifth week of Lent

You will see the glory of God.

—John 11:40

Jesus goes to the home of his beloved friends, and gives new life to Lazarus. His sisters and friends rejoice! In the same way, at Easter we will rejoice in new life for Jesus.

One way to celebrate Jesus' new life is with an Easter scene.



We'll start by growing Easter grass for our Easter scene.

You'll need:

- **flowerpot or an empty yogurt carton**
- **garden soil to fill the pot or carton**
- **seed: grass, wheat or beans**

Ask your family to help you fill the pot or carton and plant the seeds. Water the pot. Cover it with plastic wrap. Watch for new life to poke up from the soil. Then take off the wrap and put it on a window sill. Keep watering and wait for Easter green!



Saturday, the fifth week of Lent

I am the resurrection and the life.

—John 11:25

Tomorrow we begin the last week of Lent. In eight days, we'll come to the most important day of the whole Christian year: Easter. One way we'll celebrate is by making Easter eggs.

Did you know that the first Easter eggs were symbols of this new life? Some people drew ribbons or bands that went all the way around the egg, without stopping. This was a symbol of life that went on forever! Some people drew rising suns to remember Jesus rising just like the morning sun. Some people drew pictures of wheat—just like the new grass you planted yesterday!



In the egg shape below make up your own pictures that show new life with God. Add the words of today's verse, too.



Palm Sunday

**Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. –Matthew 21:9**

This last week of Lenten stories begins with the saddest story of all. First Jesus rides into Jerusalem and the people call him king. They shout out, "Hosanna!" which means, "Save us now!"

But this glorious ride into his beloved Jerusalem ends sadly. Before the week is done, Jesus will die. His friends will weep and think he is gone forever. But just wait: there's another story after that sad day. Jesus has died, but Jesus will rise. Jesus will live forever.



Use markers to draw branches of palm or other leafy, green things to wave at Jesus. Bring your picture to the family table and ask your family to call out with you to Jesus: Hosanna!



Monday in Holy week

**The Lord is my light and my salvation:
whom should I fear? –Psalm 27:1**

After Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he grew more and more afraid. At least he had a friendly home to go to! Jesus went to the house of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus where they sat and ate together.



What do you think his friends would say to Jesus in this hard time? What do you think Jesus would say to his friends? Write them in the balloons below.



Tuesday in Holy week

**My children, I will be with you
only a little while longer. –John 13:33**

Jesus knew he was leaving his friends. Before he died, he wanted to know his friends what was most important in his life. And this is what he told them: “I give you a new commandment.”

His friends were amazed! They all knew the commandments Moses had from God. Now Jesus would give a new commandment, even greater than these.

Let’s find the new commandment that Jesus gave to all his friends—then AND now.



**The puzzle below is about staying close,
so first find each letter’s “friend.”**

Here are the first 13 letters of the alphabet, A-M: **If you see an Y, it means L. If you see an L, it means Y.** Can you solve the puzzle and read the words? (The first letter is done for you.)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



Wednesday in Holy Week

My appointed time draws near.

—Matthew 26:18

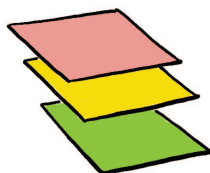
Our stories for Lent are almost over. Now we come to the hard story of Jesus' death on the cross and the surprising story of his new life on Easter.

Together with new grass and Easter eggs, let's make a colorful symbol of Jesus' new life: butterflies!



Let's make a butterfly! You'll need 10" squares of tissue paper in three colors and a pipe cleaner.

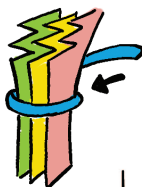
Directions: Take 3 squares of tissue paper in 3 different colors. Stack them one on top of the other.



Fold them "accordion-style" to make a narrow band.



Wrap a pipe cleaner around the middle of your paper band. Twist the pipe cleaner to secure, and leave the pipe cleaner ends to look like butterfly antennae.



Fluff out each side of the papers around the middle to look like butterfly wings. Hang them from yarns, or save them for Easter baskets.



Holy Thursday

He poured water into a basin.

—John 13:5

Remember Jesus' good friend Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus? During this last week of Jesus' life, she broke open a jar of perfumed oil. She washed the feet of Jesus. Jesus loved her for her kindness.

Some days later, Jesus may have remembered her kindness as he, too, washed the feet of his own friends. He told his friends, "As I have done for you, you should also do."

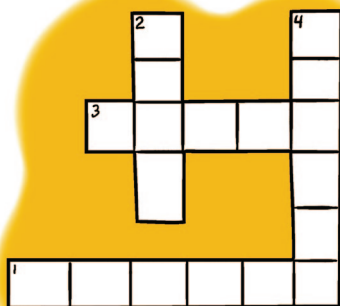


Fill in the words of the story below, then put them in the crossword puzzle.

Jesus had a _____ named Mary. She washed
(1 across)

the _____ of _____. Later Jesus
(2 down) (3 across)

_____ the feet of his friends.
(4 down)



Answer: 1 across = friend, 2 down = feet, 3 across = Jesus, 4 down = washed

Good Friday

**My kingdom does not belong
to this world. –John 18:36**

Today is the saddest story: the death of Jesus on a cross.

The first Christians never told this story without it's surprise ending: the story of Jesus' new life. On this cross, we show Jesus risen to new life.

Can you surround the cross with pictures of God's gifts to the world? What colors do you love? What foods? What animals? What people? Put what you love most around Jesus.



Holy Saturday

My love shall never leave you.

—Isaiah 54:10

Our Lent is almost over. Our hard stories end with Jesus dying on the cross and being buried in a tomb.

But today, we get ready to turn that story upside down. When we go to church tonight, we'll hear the amazing stories of how God will make EVERYTHING right. We'll hear that God makes the world. God leads us across the water to safety. God promises: my love shall never leave you.



And we will shout out together:

He is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

And then it is no longer the days of Lent. Alleluia: welcome, Easter!

Easter Sunday

**As the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary
came to see. —Matthew 28:1**

Alleluia! Jesus is risen. Death is turned upside down, and now life is on top—forever!

Mary Magdalene and another Mary were the first ones to see the empty tomb and to learn the Good News: God had raised Jesus from the dead.

