

Together with Jesus



Family Activities for the Six Weeks of Lent

Dear Friends,

During the six weeks of Lent we prepare our hearts and lives for the great "Hallelujah" shout of Easter. Each week we will spend some time with a person from the Bible, each one an important part of the Lenten story, and each one a friend of Jesus—just like you:

The Week of Ash Wednesday • Adam
The First Week of Lent • Isaiah
The Second Week in Lent • Martha
The Third Week of Lent • Mary (Martha's sister)
The Fourth Week of Lent • Peter
The Fifth Week of Lent • Mary (Jesus' mother)
Holy Week • Jesus
Easter Sunday • You!

And each week we will also meet another person (sometimes someone close to your age) whose life today displays God's love for others in outstanding ways. Perhaps one of those people will inspire you to find new ways to be a friend of Jesus.



Find a spot in your home for a family altar. Add a Bible, a cross, and a shell to remind you of your Baptism. (No flowers yet—save them for Easter Sunday.) After you've made the little journal on the next page, you might want to come to this place to write in it.

Here are the activities for each week in Lent:

- a Scripture reading
- a devotion
- an activity or puzzle
- a song (to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")
- a friendship bookmark
- a craft
- a recipe

There's something for you to do every day of the week or you may choose to do the whole week's activities all at one time with your family.

We also learn in these weeks how sin spoiled God's good creation and separated us from God and each other. We will remember how God sent his Son Jesus to die for us, to heal our broken hearts and to restore our friendship. During Lent we confess our sins, we ask God for forgiveness, we reach out with love to those around us. We will be ready to celebrate Easter Sunday with joyful hearts.



IDEA!

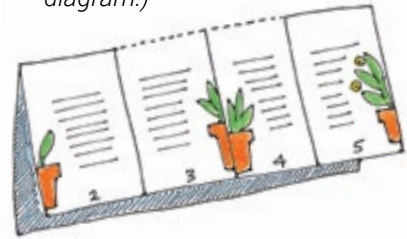
The next time you visit the library check out a book of Christian art. You will find paintings of the life of Jesus that artists have created over the centuries. Place the book in your little altar area, and open it to a different painting each day during Lent.

Together with Jesus Journal

Here's a little journal for you to assemble. Follow these diagrams and make sure your folds and page numbers match the pictures at every step! Ask Mom or Dad to help!

1. Turn to the center of this book and very carefully remove the centerfold, leaving it in one piece.

2. Fold the whole sheet down the center the long way, just like this. (Match the page numbers with the ones in the diagram.)



3. Now open the sheet flat and fold it in half this way. Cut on the dotted line, cutting through both layers. (Cut ONLY as far as the dotted line goes!)

4. Fold each end toward the centerfold like this—so the sheet is in quarters. (Check the page numbers!)

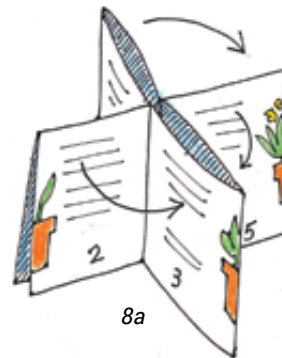
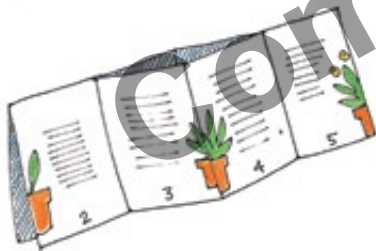
5. Crease the folds so it lies flat like this:



6. Open it up all the way and fold it again, as you did in #2.

7. Hold it on each side and start pushing toward the center, so that pages 3 and 4 start coming toward you and pages 7 and 8 are going away from you.

8. Push it far enough for the centers to meet, so it looks like a cross from the top (figure 8a). Fold the back section toward the right and the left section toward the front (figure 8b) until it becomes a little booklet. (This is the trickiest part!)



9. Crease all the folds and now it's a little booklet with the title, "Friend of Jesus" on the front. You did it!



Spend some time thinking about the questions in your new little journal. Write your thoughts or questions down. Maybe you'd like to talk about some of those things with your teacher, your pastor or your mom or dad. Talk to God, too!

Week of Ash Wednesday: Adam

God created man in his own image ... male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27



Song of Adam

(to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Adam, Adam, our first man,
Through the garden how you ran,
Played with tigers, named the crow.
You and Eve, God loved you so.
Then you had to disobey;
That was such a fateful day.

Devotion Time

Read Genesis 3

It's so easy to blame Adam and Eve. God made a perfect world and Adam and Eve messed it up. They ate that fruit even though God said, "Don't touch it!" Adam blamed Eve, and we blame Adam. It's so easy to blame others for our problems. Then there is Beatrice.

Beatrice grew up in Uganda, Africa. Her family had little money, and she was unable to attend school. Beatrice's family received a goat from Heifer International, an organization that distributes livestock to poor families all over the world. Her family was able to sell enough goats' milk to send Beatrice to school, and then she earned a scholarship to go to college in the United States. Beatrice could have blamed her family, her country or God for her poverty, but she chose to work hard and learn, and now she wants to start a school for children in her own Ugandan village. Sin is part of our lives, but Jesus came to take the blame for our sins. Can you imagine how much he loved us? How can we return his love to those around us?



Lord, teach us during this season of Lent to admit our guilt when we disobey your rules. Then remind us of your love and forgiveness so we can forgive and love those around us. Amen.

You will find a friendship bookmark in this place every week. Cut it out and share it with a friend.



Adam



The apple is often used as a symbol for Adam because he and Eve ate the "forbidden fruit" in the Garden of Eden. Even though Adam and Eve sinned, God still gave them the promise of a Savior. That makes them friends of Jesus!

Week of Ash Wednesday: Adam

Lent ABCs

Think of words that you might hear during the seasons of Lent and Easter. Write one for each letter of the alphabet. (Possible answers are at the bottom of this page.)

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



Make a Growing Necklace

Spring is the time to see God's wonderful creation come back to life. Here is a fun way to watch a seed sprout and a good reminder of our new life in Christ. Wear it!

You will need:

- a small, clear empty and clean plastic pill bottle with a lid
- cotton balls
- two or three seeds for "planting"
- yarn and scissors

1. Wet the cotton a little bit (don't soak it) and put it inside the bottle.
2. Place the seeds between the cotton and the wall of the bottle.
3. Put the lid on tightly.
4. Tie a piece of yarn around the lid and tie the two ends together to form a necklace.
5. Wear your necklace until you see the seeds have sprouted. Now plant them in your garden and watch them grow.

Baked Apples

Baked apples remind us of how sin came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. But God still loves us and gives us "Baked Apples"!

1. Scoop out the cores of small baking apples—one for each family member.
2. Peel the upper half of each apple.
3. Stand the apples upright in a baking dish.
4. Put 1 T. sugar, 1 t. butter and a sprinkle of cinnamon in the center of each apple.
5. Pour water 1/4 inch deep into the baking dish.
6. Bake uncovered in a 375-degree oven until tender, 30-40 minutes. (Or microwave—without water—6-8 minutes.)



First Week of Lent: Isaiah

He was wounded and bruised for our sins ... he bore the sins of many and pleaded with God for sinners. Isaiah 53:5 and 12



Song of Isaiah (tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Prophet, prophet long ago,
What's ahead? God let you know.
Yes, a Savior would be born
On a future Christmas morn.
But that Jesus had to die;
"It is finished," he would cry.

Devotion Time

Read Isaiah 53

After sin came into the world, God sent many teachers and prophets to tell his people—and us—what wonderful things God does for us. Isaiah was a prophet who wrote of the suffering and death of Jesus for our sins many years before it happened. Many of his words are beautiful poetry.

Mattie Stepanek was born in July, 1990, and he died when he was only 13, in June, 2004. Despite suffering all his life with muscular dystrophy, Mattie wrote thousands of poems and short stories celebrating beauty, joy and the gifts of God. For Mattie there was always a reason for happiness and thanksgiving, and he decided to celebrate life every day in some way. Then he wrote about it.

You can try writing poetry, too. Haiku is a form of poetry that has three short lines divided into two thoughts. The first line contains five syllables, the second line has seven and the third line has five again.

Like this: *White lilies in bloom
Ev'rywhere you look in church
It must be Easter*

Now it's your turn:

Lord, thank you for all the good words in the Bible. Thank you for giving us the stories and promises of the Old Testament prophets and thank you for giving us the story of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.



Isaiah



A scroll is Isaiah's symbol because he probably wrote his poetry on parchment or papyrus scrolls. When you read his beautiful poetry about the promised Savior, you will see what a friend of Jesus Isaiah is.

First Week of Lent: Isaiah

Old Testament Prophecies

Here are quotations from the Old Testament that prophecy things that take place in the New Testament when Jesus lived. Look up the Bible passages to fill in the missing words.

- Numbers 24:17 A _____ will come out of Jacob.
Psalm 2:6 I have installed my _____ on Zion.
Psalm 22:1 "My God, my God, why have you _____ me?"
Psalm 22:16 They have pierced my _____ and my _____ .
Psalm 22:18 They divide my _____ among them and cast lots for my clothing.
Psalm 69:21 They ... gave me _____ for my thirst.
Isaiah 7:14 The virgin will give birth to a _____ .
Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a _____ is born.
Isaiah 32:1 A _____ will reign in righteousness.
Isaiah 40:11 He gathers the _____ in his arms.
Isaiah 53:5 The punishment that brought us _____ was on him.



Family Scrolls

Roll up lengths of plain white paper (inexpensive, plain white shelf paper works well) from two sides to meet in the middle and secure with a rubber band. Put the names of every family member (or friends) on pieces of folded paper in a bowl and have each person draw out a name, making sure it isn't your own. Don't tell whose name you draw!

During the days of Lent jot down on your scroll all the good qualities/talents/God-given gifts that you can see about that person. Watch for good things—and ask Jesus to help you forgive the other things. On Easter Sunday change the rubber band for a piece of bright ribbon and give it to the person you have been writing about. Say, "Happy Easter—Jesus loves you and so do I!"

A Bible Meal

Plan this special meal one night—all made from food mentioned in the Bible.

Appetizers

- almonds (Genesis 43:11)
- pistachio nuts (Genesis 43:11)
- cheese (2 Samuel 17:29)

Salad

- cucumbers (Numbers 11:5)
- onions (Numbers 11:5)
- dill (Matthew 23:23)
- vinegar (Ruth 2:14)
- olive oil (Ezekiel 16:19)

Main Dishes

- chicken (Matthew 23:37)
- barley (Ruth 1:22)
- beans (2 Samuel 17:28)
- wheat bread (Exodus 29:2)

Beverages

- milk (Genesis 18:8)
- grape juice (Numbers 6:3)
- wine (John 2:9)

Dessert

- raisins (1 Samuel 30:12)
- figs (1 Samuel 30:12)
- dates (2 Samuel 6:19)
- honey (Matthew 3:4)

Look up Hosea 7:8 for another suggestion. Or if you are really brave, how about Leviticus 11:22?

Together with Jesus

Family Activities for the Six Weeks of Lent

Gather together with your family during the six weeks of Lent to prepare your hearts and lives for the great "Hallelujah" shout of Easter. The weekly devotions, songs, simple family crafts and recipes in this activity book will encourage you to spend some time with a person from the Bible, each one an important part of the Lenten story and each one a friend of Jesus.

Throughout Lent, your family will feel more connected to each other and to these biblical figures as the story of our salvation is shared around the house in both familiar and fun new ways. Each prayerful activity will bring you closer, together, with Jesus.

