

Stepping Stones Through Lent



Lent Daily
Devotions
for Kids

Ash Wednesday

Setting Out

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. —Psalm 51:10*

Ash Wednesday is the very first step on the Lenten road to Easter. The cross of ashes is a sign of two things: that we have sinned and that God has forgiven us. At Easter, we will celebrate new life, the new life we received at baptism and the new life that awaits us in heaven. Lent is a time to get ready, to do a little "spring cleaning" before the celebration begins.

The cross of ashes is the first step on the journey of Lent. It is a sign that our sorrow for sin has been changed into the joy of new life.

*Jesus, help me to be sorry
for my sins this Lent.*



Thursday After Ash Wednesday

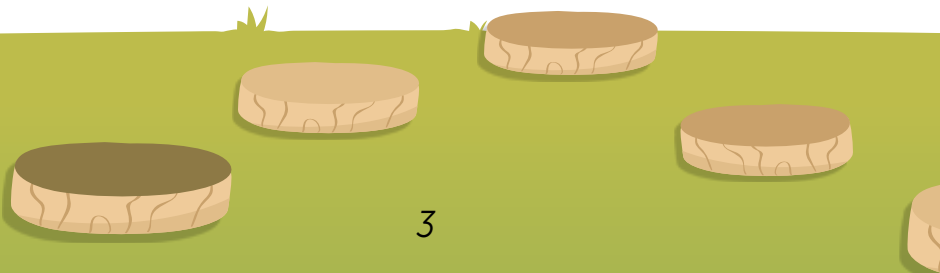
Commandments

*I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.
Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring
may live ... —Deuteronomy 30:19*

When we go on a trip, it is good to take along a map that tells us how to get where we want to go. God has given us a map: the Holy Scripture. If we follow God's map, then sooner or later, we'll get where we want to go! If you lose your way by not telling the truth or taking something that doesn't belong to you, use the map to find your way again.

Jesus is always ready to guide us back to the right path, but first we have to know that we are lost!

*Jesus, help me to know when I have
gone off the path.*



Friday After Ash Wednesday

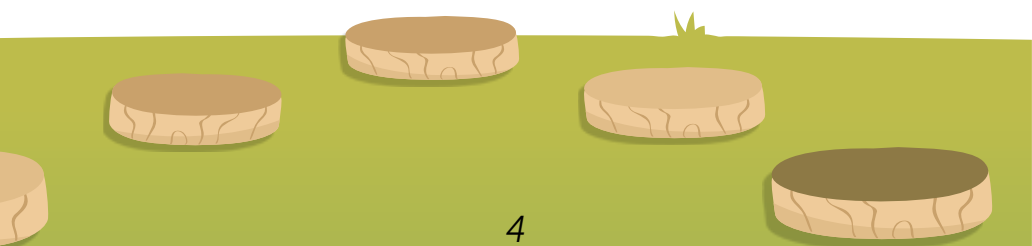
The Meaning of Lent

*When you send forth your Spirit ... you renew
the face of the ground. —Psalm 104:30*

What does the word "Lent" mean? Why have we given this name to the time of preparation before Easter? Lent comes from an old word meaning "springtime."

During the spring of the year, daylight increases, trees begin to bud and flowers start to appear. The new life that comes to the world each spring is like the renewal of life that comes when we pray and try harder to follow Jesus.

***Jesus, thank you for the new life you
give our world and our spirits.***



Saturday After Ash Wednesday

The Forty Days of Lent

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

—Matthew 4:1-2

Do you know why Lent is so long? Many years ago, Lent was a time of preparation for baptism on Easter. Lent was made forty days long because Jesus spent forty days and nights in fasting and prayer getting ready for his public life. Those who have already been baptized use the forty days of Lent to remember what being a Christian is all about: following Jesus in all we do.

***Jesus, help me to follow
you each day, especially
this Lent.***



The First Sunday in Lent

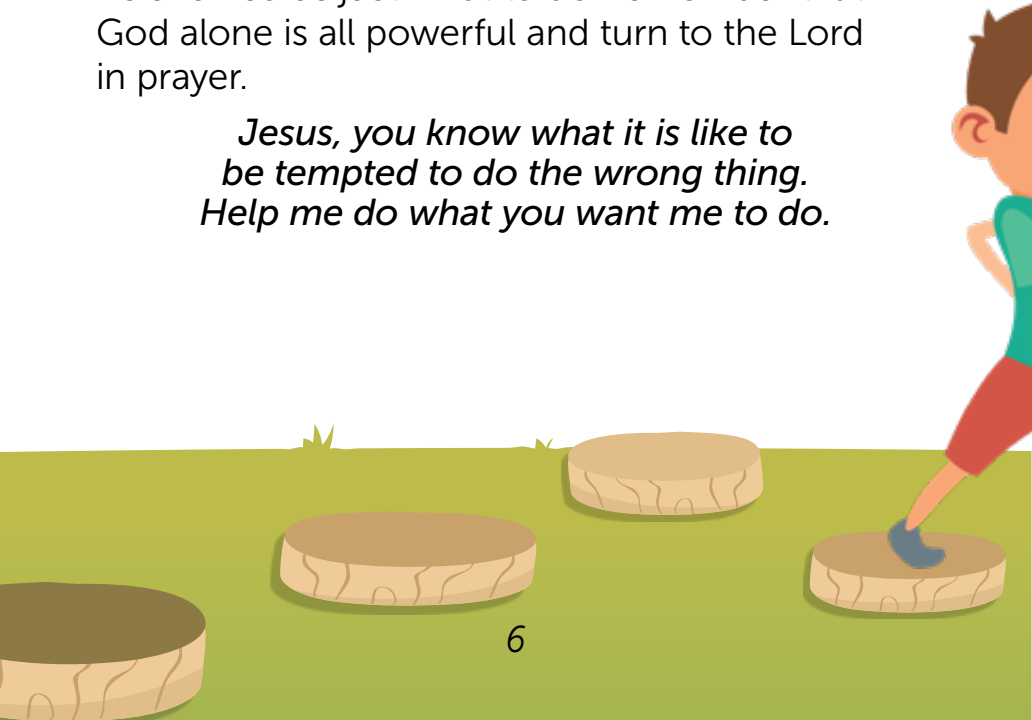
Jesus Knew Temptations

Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

—Matthew 4:10-11

We all at times want to do things we know are wrong. Temptations draw us down a different path, one which does not follow Jesus. Jesus himself was tempted in the desert by Satan, and he showed us just what to do: remember that God alone is all powerful and turn to the Lord in prayer.

Jesus, you know what it is like to be tempted to do the wrong thing. Help me do what you want me to do.



Monday of the First Week

Three Parts of Lent

*Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other. —Isaiah 45:22*

Since the early days of the Church, Lent has been a time for Christians to turn back to God, especially by doing these things: praying and worshipping, fasting and giving to those in need.

Of course, we should always pray, control our appetites and help the poor. But in Lent, we do these things to remind ourselves of three things: our sins, God's great love for us and the new life in Jesus that we have received in baptism.

*Jesus, help me remember what Lent
is all about and to turn my life toward
you this Lent.*



Friday of the Fourth Week

How Glorious Is Your Name

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

—Psalm 8:1

Think about it: God created the whole universe, from the farthest star to the most ordinary speck of dust—and everything in between! Often, a beautiful mountain or colorful sunset makes us praise the Creator. God also created human beings with brains and bodies that let us do so many different things—build machines, study science, write stories. Let us remember to thank and praise God for the wonders of being who we are.

Jesus, thank you for all your gifts to me, especially the gift of life.

