



TOTALLY LENT!

A KID'S JOURNEY TO EASTER 2020

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Intermediate Grades

Walking with Jesus

Lent consists of the forty days (excluding Sundays) that come before Easter. On March 5 this year, we begin a forty-day walk with Jesus. We pray and fast to show sorrow for our sins and to imitate Jesus, who prepared for his public life with forty days of prayer and fasting.

Jesus came among us as a man on a mission. He wanted to prove God's love for every single human being on Earth—past, present, and yet to be born. Even if only one human being had ever existed—you—Jesus still would



have come to Earth with his message of love. He still would have lived and died just for you.

The Gospels tell the good news about the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Those who follow Jesus love hearing and reading about him. They reread the Gospels the way families tell the same stories, over and over, about family members and events.

If you read from this book each day during Lent, by Easter Sunday you will feel closer to Jesus. You will know what it's like to walk and talk with him every day.

Plan Ahead!

Make a centerpiece for your family's Easter dinner table or a favor for each person who shares your Easter dinner. See page 43 to learn about Easter grass and how to grow your own.



40 Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 26

Today's Gospel » Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

“Beware of practicing your piety before others so they will see you; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18).

Jesus talks about three ways of practicing piety—ways we still practice today. He says it is very important to do them right.

Take this **PIETY QUIZ** to see if you remember what he says.

Almsgiving means giving your time or treasure to someone who needs it. When you do this, Jesus says not to sound a trumpet (6:2). What does he mean?

- Don't blow a horn when putting money in the offering basket.
- Don't help others just for show.



Praying is talking with God. Jesus says not to stand and pray on street corners but to pray behind closed doors (6:5-6). What does he mean?

- Don't pray outdoors.
- Don't pray just so other people will think you are holy.

Fasting means giving up something you really like as a way of giving back to God. It can be anything: candy, TV, etc. When you fast, Jesus says to fast in secret (6:18). What does he mean?

- Don't fast unless you can keep it a secret from every one you know.
- Don't fast to show people how good you are. Fast to show God your love.



Today's Gospel » Luke 9:22-25

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (9:23).

To take up your cross means to accept cheerfully the hard things in your life. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting can be hard.

Here are some crosses you might pick up for Lent. Are they examples of Almsgiving, Praying, or Fasting? **Identify each with an A, a P, or an F.**

1. Take out the garbage without being told. _____
2. Tell God you're sorry when you do wrong. _____
3. Skip the candy at the movies. _____
4. Don't watch a favorite TV show. _____
5. Buy a friend a treat. _____
6. Say a rosary. _____
7. Give your allowance to a food bank. _____
8. Help your brother with his homework. _____
9. Keep silent when you feel like talking back. _____
10. Ask for God's help on a test. _____
11. Don't play video games. _____
12. Talk to God on the way to school. _____



What one good thing will you try to do every day between now and Easter? Write it here. It will be your Lenten resolution—a promise between you and God. _____

Today's Gospel » Matthew 9:14-15

John's disciples asked Jesus, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus explained: "The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they?" (9:14-15)

Jesus knew he was like the groom at a wedding feast. His followers were like the guests. At a wedding, people eat, drink, and have a good time. They don't fast.

But Jesus also knew that one day he would be killed. On that day, his disciples would be too sad to eat or drink. On that day, they would fast. During Lent we think about how Jesus died to save us from sin and death, and we feel sad. We express sorrow for our sins.

Can you find these 12 sins in this Word Search?**Curse****Talk Back****Steal****Hurt****Skip Mass****Disobey****Brag****Fight****Envy****Lie****Cheat****Bully**

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

Today's Gospel » Luke 5:27-32

Jesus asked Levi, a tax collector, to follow him. Levi left everything and followed Jesus. Then Levi gave a great banquet for Jesus and invited other tax collectors. People questioned this by asking Jesus, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (5:27-30)

At that time, most tax collectors were cheats and thieves. No wonder people were shocked that Jesus would socialize with them. They thought Jesus should only be with good people.

Find out what Jesus told the people.

Complete these sentences based on today's Gospel by filling in the missing vowels, A, E, I, O, or U.



TH _ S _ WH _ _ R _
W _ LL D _ N _ T N _ _ D
_ D _ CT _ R. _ NLY S _ CK
P _ _ PL _ D _ . _ H _ V _
C _ M _ N _ T T _ C _ LL
G _ _ D P _ _ PL _ B _ T T _
C _ LL S _ NN _ RS.



WALKING *with* JESUS

Read **MATTHEW 4:1-11** and reflect on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent.

Your Weekly Checkup

Last Thursday, you made a Lenten resolution. Now it's time to ask yourself some questions.

- 1 What have you done this week to keep your resolution?



- 2 Are you happy with what you have done? Why or why not?



WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

In church on every Ash Wednesday, you are signed on the forehead with ashes. Why ashes instead of, say, holy water?

In ancient times, God's people showed sorrow for sin by doing two things. They wore sackcloth, and they covered themselves with ashes. Sackcloth is a rough fabric made from the same thing as heavy rope. (Ouch! You've heard of rope burns, haven't you?) People made themselves feel itchy with sackcloth and dirty with ashes on purpose. They wanted their action to be a prayer. This prayer said, "Inside, I feel itchy and dirty because of my sins. Lord, have mercy."

Today we no longer wear sackcloth to show sorrow for sin. But on one day a year, we do wear ashes.

