



YEAR

4

UNIT G

## LENT: LIVING AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TODAY

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will explore some of the customs and practices associated with the celebration of the Season of Lent. Through the life and teaching of Christ they will learn about prayer, fasting and almsgiving and the forgiveness that God offers to those who believe in him.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on work in Year 2 and Year 3 about the Season of Lent. It also builds on the children's study of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Year 3.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some experience of celebrating the Season of Lent
- some knowledge of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### SKILLS

Research skills, discussion skills, speaking and listening, role-play, interpreting symbolism, sequencing skills.

### VOCABULARY

Temptation, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, Pharisee, Parable, forgiveness, Sacrament, Reconciliation, Yom Kippur, disciples, Beatitudes.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
<b>Most children will</b> know some reasons associated with the Church's practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during the season of Lent. They will know some of Jesus' teaching about forgiveness and will understand that this is a gift God freely gives. They will know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of this gift. The children will know that Christians are called to follow Christ by the way they live their lives. They will understand that the Beatitudes of Jesus provide a guide for this.	3a 3b 3c	3a 3b 3c 3d
<b>Less able children will</b> know some of the teaching of Jesus about forgiveness. They will know that this is celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will identify some customs and practices of Christians for the season of Lent and understand that the Beatitudes provide a guide for living.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2b 2c 2d
<b>More able children will</b> understand why Lent is a special season to fast, pray and to give alms to others. They will be able to give lots of examples of people living by the Beatitudes of Jesus today. The Children will also understand some reasons why Christians seek the forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	3a 3b 3c	3a 3b 3c 3d

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R2** Hear, read and explore the Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: Temptations, Passion, Death.

**L1** Gospel accounts which show the love and complete self-giving of Jesus.

**C4** The Church's celebrations of significant events in the life of Jesus,  
**C1** Prayer in the life of Jesus.

**R4** Hear about, read and explore Gospel accounts of Jesus' public ministry and teaching.

**C2** The prayer Jesus taught his friends (Our Father) and its significance.

**C5** Respect for celebrations of other faith communities and appreciation that prayer has a place in their life.

- Read the text of the temptations of Jesus. Why was Jesus in the desert in the first place? What had just happened to him before this episode in his life?
  - Recall the three things the devil asked Jesus to do.
  - What was Jesus' response on each occasion?
  - Why do you think these three things were chosen to tempt Jesus?
  - Jesus was as human as you and me, and yet at the same time he was Gods' Son. Do you really think it was difficult for him to say no to the devil? Why do you think it might have been difficult?
  - Look at the text again. Are there any indicators, which show that this was easy?
  - Imagine you are Jesus. Write a diary entry about the temptations and how it affected you.
  - In groups, children to brainstorm the word "temptation" and create a mind map of associated words. What is it like when you are tempted to do something you shouldn't?
  - How can we tell the difference between doing something that is right or wrong?
  - How can we resist the things that are wrong?
  - Create some drama scenarios of times when temptation was resisted or when somebody gave into temptation. Explore the consequences of the different actions.
  - Lent is a season for Christians to pray and fast as Jesus did in the desert and to try and resist temptation to do what is wrong.
  - Lent is often referred to as a desert experience. In light of the story of the temptation of Jesus, why do you think this is so?
  - Read the teaching of Jesus about prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
  - Research information about the Pharisees. Who were they and how did they live their lives?
  - Why do you think prayer, fasting and almsgiving are important observances for Christians today?
  - Use Bible CD-ROM and complete a search for passages where Jesus speaks about prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
  - Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are important actions during Lent for Christians, alongside other customs. Children to create a recipe for a successful Lent.
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- Lent is a season when Christians seek Gods' forgiveness in a special way.
  - Read and dramatise the Pharisee and publican parable.
  - Continue to research information about Pharisees and publicans.
  - Highlight text in blue what was good about the Pharisee. Highlight in red what was good about the publican.
  - What was the real difference between the Pharisee and the publican?
  - Why do you think Jesus used a Pharisee in this parable? Do you think he was trying to say something to Pharisees?
  - What are the implications of this parable for the Pharisee and Publican respectively?
  - What is Jesus trying to teach through the parable?
  - Can you think of a Prayer where Jesus taught about forgiveness? Recall the key words that speak of forgiveness.
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- Introduce children to the festival of Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement.
  - In groups children to use reference books to research information about the Day of Atonement. What are some of the customs and actions of Jewish people on this day? Do they have any similarities with some of the actions of Christians during the season of Lent?
  - Create a fact file or poster about this day and how it celebrates the need for forgiveness.
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- Recall previous learning on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Year 3. What does the word reconciliation mean? Use dictionaries and Thesaurus to find appropriate words. Identify from the rite of the sacrament of Reconciliation some words and actions that show it is a celebration of reconciliation and forgiveness.
  - Having studied the story of the Temptation of Jesus, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the importance of forgiveness, prepare with the children a service of Reconciliation.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R2** That God his Father prepared the People of Israel for the coming of Jesus; that Jesus was born a Jew and lived in faithful observance of Jewish tradition (multi-cultural dimension); that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.

- Know the story of the temptations of Jesus.
- Understand that this was a difficult and testing time for him.
- Think of ways in which we can resist the temptation to do things that are wrong.

**L1** Of what Jesus teaches about happiness and the love of his Father for all people; of Christian values of justice, compassion, truthfulness and respect; that Jesus reveals the love and mercy of God his Father for every single person.

**C4** A developing awareness of the customs and traditions of major liturgical feasts and seasons.

**C1** That Jesus prayed and taught his disciples to pray.

- Know that the season of Lent is a time to pray, fast and help others.
- Understand that prayer, fasting and almsgiving are important teachings of Jesus.
- Think of why these are important and beneficial to Christians today.

**R4** That Jesus was born a Jew and lived in faithful observance of Jewish tradition, that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.

- Know the story of the Pharisee and the publican.
- Understand something about the forgiveness of God from this parable.

**G2** That the "Our Father" contains different forms of prayer.

**C5** That other faith communities have significant celebrations and a variety of forms of prayer.

- Know about the Jewish Day of Atonement.
- Understand that it is a special celebration of forgiveness for the Jewish people.
- Research information about this festival.

- Know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a special celebration of God's forgiveness.
- Be able to identify from the rite the words and actions which speak of Reconciliation.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Use of drama and role-play to reinforce the story.

Research more information about the customs of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. You might include here the CAFOD Family Fast Day.

Use of Bible CD-ROM to find references to the Pharisees in the Gospels. What did they really think about Jesus?

Research some more information about fasting festivals in other world religions.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R3** Investigate and recognise that Jesus called people to follow him.

- In the Season of Lent, Christians remember that they are called to be followers of Jesus. The story of the call of the disciples is helpful to consider this.
- Children to recall what they can remember about the call of the disciples.
- Read the story of the call of the fishermen and the call of Matthew.
- Children to create a table about these calls to include the names and occupations of the Disciples, what Jesus said to them and how they responded.
- What do these stories tell you about the type of people Jesus chose to be his disciples?
- Why do you think these people responded to the call of Jesus to follow him?
- Read and dramatise the story of the call of the rich man. Why did he want to follow Jesus? Why do you think Jesus asked him to give up everything?
- In the story it is not what the rich man had done in the past that was important to Jesus, but what he could do in the future. Why then did the rich man go away sad?
- In the end, what was stopping the young man being a disciple of Jesus? What do you think might stop people today from following Jesus?
- Write up a phone-call conversation between Jesus and the rich young man. What might Jesus say to him and what might the rich young man say in response?
- Recall previous work on Baptism in Year 3 and in previous units. Talk to the children about being “called by name” as disciples of Jesus. In what ways do the children think they can live out being followers of Christ today?
  
- Explain that one of the most important qualities of Jesus was that he was a teacher.
- Brainstorm the essential qualities of a good teacher. Jesus constantly taught about the Kingdom of God.
- We often call Jesus King. What does that mean? Is he like any other King? Why not?
- Jesus taught about sharing God’s Kingdom. In his teaching it was something people had to choose and would affect the way they lived.
- Read parables of the Pearl of Great Price and Treasure in the field.
- Examine the phrases, which describe the actions of the men. Why do you think they went to such effort?
- What can we learn about God’s Kingdom from these parables?
- Children to write their own modern day parable about the “Kingdom of God”.
  
- Jesus taught his disciples the values of God’s Kingdom through the Beatitudes.
- Find the two parts to each Beatitude. What does each part mean?
- Find newspaper cuttings or stories of people living the Beatitudes.
- Write a Prayer out of one of the Beatitudes.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R3** That Jesus called people to follow Him; that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.

- Know that Jesus called people to share his life.
- Understand some reasons why people accepted or rejected the call of Jesus to follow him.

- Know some of the Parables of Jesus about the Kingdom of God.
- Understand that Jesus invited people to seek and embrace God's Kingdom.
- Reflect on ways in which people can embrace God's Kingdom today.

- Know the teaching of Jesus about the Beatitudes.
- Recognise that the Beatitudes can help Christians bring the good news of Jesus to other people.
- Reflect on their own commitment to the Beatitudes.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Look at different images and symbols in contemporary society that might be used to think about embracing the Kingdom of God.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mt. 4: 1-11* – The Temptations of Jesus

*Lk. 4: 1-11*

*Lk. 6: 1-8, 16-18* – Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

*Lk. 18: 9-14* – The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

*Mk. 1: 1-20* – The Call of the disciples

*Lk. 5: 1-11*

*Lk. 5: 27-28* – The Call of Levi

*Mk. 2: 13-14*

*Mt. 9: 9-10*

*Mt. 19: 16-22* – The Call of the Rich Young Man

*Mt. 13: 44-46* – The Parables of the Kingdom

*Mt. 5: 3-12* – The Beatitudes of Jesus

## OTHER LINKS

Art and Drama Links: Many of the Parables and stories in this unit provide opportunities for these links.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Pray for those who are tempted to do wrong things.
- Remind the children that during prayer time we are living out the teaching of Jesus to pray.
- Pray for those who are starving in the world.
- Pray for those who we will support through Lenten charities.
- Pray for those who follow Christ today in different ways.
- Pray that we may live out the Beatitudes of Jesus this Lent.

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**