



ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Lent as a time of change and of growing to be more like Jesus by following his example. In the unit the children will explore various aspects of Jesus' message and ways in which Christians can apply these to real life situations.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning about Lent in Reception.

PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- prior knowledge of Lent as a period of time in the Church's year
- some prior knowledge of ways to follow Jesus' example.

SKILLS

Discussion, prayer writing, recording information and ideas, recall of knowledge, listening, being quiet, sitting still, technology, brainstorming, imagining, hot seating.

VOCABULARY

Lent, Jesus, change, Prodigal Son, Zacchaeus, Jericho.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will know that Lent is a special season in the Church's year when we try to change and grow to be more like Jesus by following his example more closely. They will know some of the sayings of Jesus and identify some ways of applying them to real life situations. They will also know that Jesus, in his words and action, gave people a chance to change, and that Lent is a special time when we too are given that same chance.	1a 1b	1a 1c 1d
Less able children will know that Lent is an important time during which we think about trying to do what Jesus said and did.	1a	1d
More able children will understand that following Jesus' example means listening to his words and learning from his actions and will be able to identify ways of doing that in their own lives. They will have a greater understanding of what it means to change and will be able to identify ways that they themselves can change.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2b 2d

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C4 Become familiar with some ways the Church celebrates the major seasons of the liturgical year.

Ch1 The way Jesus proclaimed the Good News by what he said and did.

R2 Hear, read and explore and reflect upon a variety of Scripture imagery that speaks of God in the New Testament.

- Revise the name of the liturgical Season of Lent.
- Create class banners proclaiming the beginning of this Season.
- At the start of Lent give each child a cross, divided into 40 squares. Each time they carry out an act of kindness or say a prayer they can colour in a square in purple.
- Have a large 40 square grid on display. Each day record the name of a child who has acted as Jesus asks.

- Explain to the children that during Lent Christians try to follow Jesus more closely. They listen to his words and follow his example.
- Share with children a range of the sayings of Jesus which can help those who share his life today.
- Include: "I am the light of the world." "Love your enemies." "Love one another as I have loved you." "Whatever you do to the least of these people you did to me." "Let the children come to me."
- Write these sayings of Jesus on large strips of paper and display with pictures around the classroom.
- Reflect with the children on the differences between light and darkness. Make lists of words. What can we do in the light that we can't do in the dark?
- If Jesus is the light of the world, how can his light help and guide people? What can Jesus help people see? What can he show people by his example?
- Children to write prayers on candle cut out cards. Guide the children with their writing, using "Jesus you are the light" as a starting point.

- Reflect with the children on what it means to love somebody.
- Children to think of family experiences when love is shown to them or experiences of love and care show in school.
- Explain to the children that Lent is a time when we try and show love and care by doing more to help those in real need.
- What did Jesus mean when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you?" In what ways do we experience the love and care of Jesus?
- Remind the children of the work of Father Hudson's Society, CAFOD and Mission Together. Explore the idea of a Lent fast day, when we give up something and share the money we have saved with those who are very poor or in need.
- Children to write Lenten promises based around the words of Jesus to love one another and to explain why they have chose this particular promise for Lent.

- Jesus said: "Whatever you do to the least of these people you did it to me." What do you think he meant by these words? What does this tell us about the way in which we should treat and respect people?
- Create statements with the children. "I can see Jesus when ...". These could be shared in liturgy or used throughout the season of Lent to reinforce learning.

- Jesus said: "Love your enemies." Explore with the children some of their own experiences of falling out with each other and being unkind. Alternatively tell a story about people falling out and the making up. Why do you think Jesus would want his disciples to do their best to be respectful and kind to all people?

- Children to recall the story of Jesus and the children. Create a role plays of this story in small groups.
- Children to imagine that they were amongst the children who came to Jesus. What would they tell him? What do they think he might say to them? Children to write or record on tape their thoughts and reflections.
- Explain to the children that times of prayer are opportunities to spend time with Jesus. Use some quiet time for children to explore the idea of talking to Jesus and listening to him.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C4 Know the basic meaning of Lent.

Ch1 That Jesus' life and mission is the Gospel (Good News)

R2 That Scripture stories reveal and hand on the Good News about God and contain messages about life; that Jesus reveals the Good News of God his Father.

- Know the name of the liturgical season Lent.
- Know that Lent is a special season when we try to follow Jesus more closely by listening to his words and learning from his actions.
- Be able to reflect on the words and actions of Jesus and apply them to real life situations.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Whole school liturgy to bury the Alleluia. Classes take in turn to keep it safe.

Reflect with the children on poverty and need being something that is found in the local community as well as in other parts of the world that are poor.

Create a display of the children's statements surrounded by pictures of Jesus.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C6 Hear and explore Gospel accounts of how Jesus gave individuals a chance to change.

Ch2 How people who heard the Good News of Jesus began to share a way of Life.

- Make a prayer dice which the children can take to use at home with their families.
- Explore with the children the idea of Lent as a time to change to be more like Jesus.
- Share with the children the parable of the two sons. Which son really did what his father wanted? Explore the part of the parable, which indicates the change that took place.
- Share with the children the story of Zacchaeus.
- Brainstorm as many words as possible to describe the type of person that Zacchaeus was before he met Jesus. Create with the children some sentences which might indicate the way he spoke to people and what he did.
- Children to imagine they were somebody who lived in Jericho and they had to pay taxes to Zacchaeus. Role play the person and ask lots of questions about what they thought of Zacchaeus.
- Why do you think Zacchaeus changed? Why did meeting Jesus make such a big difference to Zacchaeus?
- What were the signs of his change? How would people respond to him now?
- Make a "change" box with the children where they insert words and pictures that reflect some of the changes they might want to make in their own lives. Use this as a source of reflection during collective worship. Or a reconciliation liturgy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C6 That Jesus brings the Good News of God's love and forgiveness; that God's love helps people to change and to choose what is good.

Ch2 That the Church is the community which continues Jesus' mission to proclaim the Good News to the whole world.

- Know that Lent is a season of change.
- Hear and talk about stories of Jesus giving people a chance to change.
- Take part in prayer celebrations about Lent as a season of change when we try to follow Jesus more closely.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 19: 1-10 – The Story of Zacchaeus

OTHER LINKS

Some important links could be established with whole school Lenten activities.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use lots of the Lenten symbols during prayer time
- Use some of the sayings of Jesus as the scripture for class prayer time.
- Create prayers of sorrow for failure to love and live like Jesus. Use “sorry” prayers from the previous unit of work.

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?