

Dear Parent,

Today in *The Way of the Child*, we began a series of sessions that focus on Lent, including Ash Wednesday. We discussed Ash Wednesday and the meaning of making the sign of the cross on the forehead with ashes. Attending a worship service on Ash Wednesday can be meaningful for your child and you. See information at the end of this letter, and please consider attending an Ash Wednesday service with your child.

We explained Lent, the forty-day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter, as a time to remember Jesus, reflect on what Jesus means in our lives, and repent (express sorrow and change our ways) for not living as Jesus taught. For the remainder of Lent, we will focus on Jesus' time in the wilderness, including his fasting, praying, and being tempted. We will also center on the forgiveness God offers when we do wrong and truly say we are sorry.

During this season, the leaders and children will make a Lenten promise to do something loving, or to give up something we really like, in order to help us remember Jesus. We encourage you to talk and pray with your child about taking on this spiritual practice for Lent.

We have asked each child to write down his or her Lenten promise and bring it to our next session. Keeping a promise to do something for forty days is a big commitment. In each session, we will support your child in keeping his or her Lenten promise. Family support also helps. You can offer your support by joining your child in his or her promise, helping your child identify acts of mercy or charity, and by asking and talking about the promise on a regular basis.

Here are some ideas for Lenten promises:

1. Save money made from doing chores to give to an agency that helps the poor.
2. Each week do an act of mercy or charity for someone in need.
3. Give up a favorite food or beverage, such as candy, ice cream, pizza, or soda. Whenever you crave that food, you will be reminded to think about what Jesus means in your life.
4. Give up a favorite TV show and use that time to read, reflect, and pray.
5. Begin some discipline that helps you grow closer to Jesus, like reading a portion of scripture and praying each day.

We hope your child will take on the spiritual practice of making and keeping a promise during this season. Lent can be an important time for your child. If you have any questions, please call us.

May this season of the Christian year be a meaningful time for you and your family. Grace and peace to you as we all seek to live as Jesus taught.

Sincerely,

Leaders' names and phone numbers:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Time and place for Lenten service:

Spend time in silence thinking about Jesus. How does Jesus show God's love to you?
Write your thoughts on this journal page.

Instructions for Lenten Calendar Kit

- Each day glue an appropriate square for that day on your calendar to remind you to keep your Lenten promise and your prayers.
- Use the purple squares for the days of the week and the yellow squares for Sundays.
- Use the special squares for the special days of Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Easter.

A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

—Matthew 3:17



This is _____ (write in your name) my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.



What does it mean to you to be God's beloved?

Think about what you do or can do to please God.
Write your thoughts on this page.

Write your Lenten promise.

How can knowing that you belong to God help you keep this promise?

Write a prayer asking God to help you keep your promise.



*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.*

—Saint Francis of Assisi (1182–1226)



Read the prayer above.

How can you be an instrument of peace for God?

Write your thoughts on this journal page.

You may wish to write a prayer asking God to forgive you for the wrong things you do.

“Forgive each other; just as [God] has forgiven you.”

—Colossians 3:13



Write God a letter about a time when you were forgiven or when you forgave someone.



Sit in silence and write the prayer forming in your heart.



About Our Mission Project

What did you see and learn?

How did you feel about what we did?

What did you learn about yourself?

Where did you sense God's presence?

How is our action related to what Jesus taught?

What else do you think you should do?

Jesus said, "Remember me."

Write down the ways you remember Jesus.



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Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
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What about our world makes you sad?

Where can you bring peace?

Where can you sow love?

Where can you bring hope?

How can you share joy?

When you finish, put your journal page in your folder and go to another station.

Read Luke 19:41-42.

“As he [Jesus] came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, ‘If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.’”

What words describe what Jesus is feeling?

Write your thoughts or draw a picture.