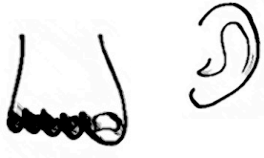


Sunday 28th February: Lent Younger Group

Gathering prayer – ask your Junior Church kids to teach you the actions!



From the top of my head to the tips of my toes
From the lobes of my ears to the end of my nose
From my back to my front to my wiggly fingers
God loves me!



Introduction

Who has had any pancakes recently?

Was there any special reason for eating pancakes?

Today we're going to think about Lent, when Christians remember Jesus fasting (not eating) in the desert. Before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, Christians traditionally use up their treats by making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Collecting items for our story

We're going to need some things to help tell the story today. Please would you find:

- Something from the desert – a cactus plant, some sand, sandpaper?
- The number 40 – fridge magnets? A drawing? Something else?
- Stones
- Bread
- Map or globe
- Tower or Angel

Luke 4:1-13

Today's story is about the time just after Jesus had been baptised. Do you remember him being baptised in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, when the Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove? Do you remember that he heard a voice from heaven saying, 'You are my beloved Son, I am pleased with you'?

Well, straight after that happened, the Holy Spirit told Jesus to go out into the desert to pray. (*Desert sand or cactus*)

Jesus was going to be there for forty days. (*40*)

While Jesus was talking quietly in the desert with his special father God, the devil came along to try to stop Jesus from doing the things God wanted him to do. The devil kept trying to trick Jesus into putting God to the test. First, he wanted Jesus to do magic, and turn stones into bread. (*Stones and bread*)

But Jesus said 'No!'

Then the devil showed Jesus all the countries in the world and said Jesus could have them all if he would worship the devil. (*Map or globe*)

Jesus said, 'No, I will only worship God.'

The devil was running out of ideas, but he took Jesus to Jerusalem to the highest tower of the Temple. He told Jesus to jump off, because God would send his angels to look after him and he would come to no harm. (*Angel and/or tower*)

Jesus was cross by now, and told the devil never to put God to the test. The devil knew that no matter how hard he had tried he couldn't get Jesus to do what was wrong, so he left.

Share the story together in your own bible or you can find it online

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204%3A1-13&version=NIVUK>

Tear drop flowers

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/18851/lenten-journey-elaine-halls.pdf>

Today we're going to transform our tears into beautiful flowers. You will need:

- 6 tear drops (print the final page of this file twice or draw your own)
- Pens/pencils/crayons

We're going to decorate each teardrop with something to remind us of the the difficult time for Jesus in the desert. Here are some ideas, or you might have your own:

- The number 40
- Bread
- Cactus
- Maps
- Praying hands
- A tower
- Stones
- Angels

These teardrops go together to make a flower to remind us of Easter joy and hope.

40 days quiz

1. How many days in Lent?
2. Who was tempting Jesus?
3. What was Jesus asked to turn the stones into?
4. When does Lent begin?
5. Where was Jesus tempted?
6. What do some people choose to do during Lent?
7. Can you name a special Sunday during Lent?
8. When does Lent end?
9. What was Jesus promised if he worshipped the devil?
10. What did the devil tell Jesus to do from the Temple roof?

'Roots' colouring and activity sheets

Roots have a collection of resources for families at home. This week's sheets can be found at:

- <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21758/21st-february-2021-activity-sheet.pdf>
the eagle-eyed may notice this is from last week, that's intentional 😊
- <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21828/jesus-in-wilderness-colouring-sheet.jpg>

A prayer to use this week

God, whose Son, Jesus,
faced difficult times,
look after us all, today and always.
God, whose Son, Jesus,
reminds us what is important,
look after us all, today and always.

God, whose Son, Jesus,
brings light to the world,
look after us all, today and always.

Amen.

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