

**Achievement Objective 1**

Children will be able to: recognise Lent as a season for turning back to God through prayer.

**Learning Outcomes:**

The children will:

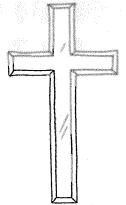
- 1 recognise *Lent* as a season for turning back to God through prayer
- 2 identify ways people can pray alone, with family-whanau and in parishes during *Lent*

**Preparation for the Lesson:**

- Scripture Readings Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22
- Photograph Resource - The *Liturgical Year Calendar* or enlarge, photocopy and colour the *Liturgical Year Calendar*, page 3
- Copies of Parish bulletin - enough for one for children working in pairs
- *Lenten* material from Caritas
- Select a story from the stories leading up to *Holy Week* for children to reflect on
- *Lenten Prayer table* items mentioned below
- Children's Home Activity, page 25 - copy for each child

**Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed.**

**Luke 22:41**



**Teacher's Notes:**

*Lent* is the season of the *Liturgical Year* when Christians walk closely with Jesus, trying to know him better and to be more like him. It is a time when they get ready to walk with him on his journey to death on a cross, and then to rejoice in his rising from death at the Resurrection.

One of the ways people are invited to turn back to God in *Lent* is through prayer - *karakia*. It is a good opportunity for people to look at prayer in their lives and to think about ways they can use prayer - *karakia* to come closer to God. It is a good time to plan times for prayer alone and also prayer with family-whanau and in parishes.

It might also be helpful to use different ways of praying. As *Lent* is the journey to Jesus' death and resurrection it is often useful for people to spend time reading the stories about those events and praying and reflecting on them. One way of doing this is to imagine yourself as a bystander watching the event and then imagining what the characters must have felt like. It may be Peter denying Jesus or Simon helping Jesus to carry his cross. You could think about times when you have not told the truth and acted with *pono*, or when you have acted with *tika* and *aroha* and helped someone in need. Your thoughts about this could move into prayer. This type of prayer - *karakia* needs time and quiet space.

*Lent* is an opportunity to discover new ways of praying so we can come to know Jesus better.

*Lent* is a time to focus on our own prayer, our prayer in our family-whanau and prayer in our parish. People need to try and let all their prayer times lead them closer to Jesus.

**Teaching and Learning Experiences:**

- Children share what they already know about the *Lenten* season, identifying it on the *Liturgical Year Calendar* and sharing what happens on *Ash Wednesday*. Class prayer table is set up with a crucifix, a bible, a purple cloth and candle, some hessian and a bowl of ashes. During *Lent* take time to enable children to think about what the season means and include in class prayer time some of the readings of the events which led up to *Holy Week*, eg Matthew 26, Mark 14 and Luke 22. Children could use the ashes to bless themselves with each morning or they could pass around the crucifix and pray silently while holding it.
- Children work in pairs and share ideas about the times and places they pray each day and the type of prayer they use in these times. Each pair shares with another pair. Teacher explains that *Lent* is a time for people to try and improve their lives and to turn back to God and to try new ways of praying. This means turning away from things that distract them from being in touch with God. These things can be sinful at times. Children share examples of what these things could be including:
  - watching television too much
  - not responding to opportunities for prayer
  - not leaving any time for prayer each day.
- Children are invited to imagine themselves watching as the Scripture story is read. When it is finished they share with a partner what they saw happening and how they felt. Then children sit alone and think and pray about something in their own lives which needs attention, eg something they do not do well, something they need help to stop doing, something that is affecting a member of their family, something they need to talk about. This style of praying could be repeated during class prayer sometimes during *Lent*. It is also helpful for children to become familiar with the *Holy Week* stories.
- Children in pairs explore the Parish Bulletin for special *Lenten* prayer and devotions in the parish.
- Teacher shows class the Caritas *Lenten* material and they discuss ways the class can use it.

**Consolidation and Extension Activities:**

- Children's Home Activity

**Suggested Assessment Examples:**

- LO 1&2 Refer to Children's Home Activity