

# LESSON NO. 1 TITLE: LENT IS A SEASON OF CHANGE

## Achievement Objective 1

Children will be able to: identify signs and symbols that show Lent as a season of change.

### Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 name traditional *signs* that show *Lent* as a season of change
- 2 identify natural *signs* in Aotearoa New Zealand that can be related to the season of *Lent*

### Preparation for the Lesson:

- Photograph Resource - The *Liturgical Year Calendar* or enlarge, photocopy and colour the *Liturgical Year Calendar*, page 3
- Materials for chart
- Bible marked at John 12:24 and caption with words of the verse on
- Pebbles or stones which children could collect
- Crucifix

### Teacher's Notes:

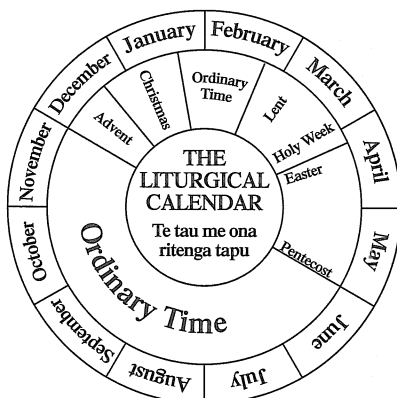
*Lent* is a season set aside to prepare for the celebration during *Holy Week* and Easter of Jesus' death and *resurrection*. *Lent* lasts for 40 days.

It is a season when we allow Jesus to change the way we live our lives. In *Lent* Jesus gives us the grace of the Holy Spirit so that we are able to become more and more like him, who always respected the *tapu* of people and acted with *tika*, *pono* and *aroha*. As people take time to think about changing things so they can follow Jesus more closely, they discover ways they can do this. It might be that they realise that they are not good at sharing their time or their things with others. It might be that they notice they speak in a mean way to people around them and do not show *aroha* and respect. Once they realise these things they can set about trying to change them. This is what is so good about *Lent*. It reminds people to do these things.

In Aotearoa New Zealand *Lent* occurs in Autumn which is also a season of change.

*Signs* of the changing season can be seen in the world of nature as summer flowers fade and die as autumn begins. The *signs* of change in nature are also reminders to people that they need to change too.

Another *sign* for *Lent* is the crucifix, which shows Jesus on the cross. When Jesus lived on earth he spent 40 days alone in the desert with God his Father. This is like the 40 days of *Lent* which can be thought of as a journey to Easter. When people look at the crucifix they remember that Jesus is our Saviour. He suffered and died so that people would be freed from death and live new lives of grace and joy. In their life journey - *Te Wa* they may have difficult times also. It is in these times that Jesus wants to be very close to people.



**For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**



### Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Children identify the forty days of *Lent* on the *Liturgical Year Calendar*, and recall what they already know about *Lent*.
- Children go for a walk to look for *signs* of change in nature. They notice and share ideas about how leaves and plants are beginning to die and seed pods are drying out, but this dying is so that there will be new life again next spring.
- On their return from the walk, the children make a class or group chart of the process of change of a plant through death to new life.
- Children read and discuss the meaning of the Scripture text on the caption card which is then added to the chart.
- Place the crucifix on or above the prayer table. Children place 40 small stones or pebbles to symbolise the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert and the 40 days of *Lent* which are like the journey to Easter, in a pathway leading to the cross.

### Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Children celebrate a prayer service using both natural and religious *symbols* talked about in the lesson

### Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Children draw and name two *signs* of *Lent*
- **LO 2** Children tell a partner 2 natural things that are in the process of change Refer to class or group charts