

LESSON NO. 2 TITLE: CHANGES IN PEOPLE

Achievement Objective 2

Children will be able to: identify ways that people can change during Lent.

Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 recognise *Lent* as a time for people to change their ways as Zacchaeus did
- 2 identify ways that people can change in *Lent*

Preparation for the Lesson:

- Scripture Reading Luke 19:1-10
- The Church's Lenten Appeal resources, eg envelopes or poster
- A piece of purple cloth and a piece of hessian, a Palm from last *Palm Sunday* and materials to make the ashes with
- Word chart for song 'Turn Back To God'

Teacher's Notes:

The Church's traditional *symbols* of *Lent* are reminding people to change - to let bad habits die, so that a new, better person can grow.

Signs of *Lent* that are often seen are ashes and sack cloth. Now it is known as hessian. In the past people would wear rough sackcloth, and put ashes in their hair as a *sign* that they were sorry for turning away from God. When we are *signed* with ashes on *Ash Wednesday*, we are reminded to be sorry for the wrong things we do, and to follow the way of Jesus

Lent is a time when people are reminded to change. By changing ways they are living they are preparing for *Holy Week* and Easter.

During the season of *Lent*, Christians make a special effort to be more like Jesus, who sacrificed himself for us on the Cross. This means changing some things about themselves. This might mean considering other people's needs before their own, and sharing themselves with others and showing *manaakitanga*. If they really want to follow Jesus, that is what they have to do. They have to change. It also means remembering to pray every day and talk to God about the changes people need to make in their lives.

St Luke tells of a man called Zacchaeus who realised this as soon as he met Jesus. He changed from being a selfish mean man to becoming a generous caring man.

In Aotearoa New Zealand in *Lent* Catholics are asked to change from putting 'me first' to putting 'others first', especially others who are poor, just as Zacchaeus did. The bishops ask them to 'make a sacrifice', to give something up so that they can give something to others. Giving something up is how people can share in Jesus' sacrifice. They could give up lollies, or a hired video, and give the money to provide food for poor people in other countries. Or they might be able to give up some time to earn the money doing a job for someone. When they choose to do something, or do without something, for others, things change for them too. They become more like Jesus.

Repent therefore and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 3:19-20



Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- During class prayer children burn and make ashes to use during *Lent*. These are added to a purple cloth, a piece of hessian and the cross with the pebble path from Lesson 1.
- Children share things that have changed in their lives over the past year. Children think about ways they have had to change themselves and share these if they want to including:
 - being able to adapt to a new class or school
 - having to accept changes in your family
 - learning to compromise with others
 - having to include others in your activities
 - learning to accept that things can not always be the way you want them to be.
- Scripture Reading is introduced and the children are asked to note how Zacchaeus changed and why he changed.
- Children examine the envelopes or poster provided for the *Lenten Appeal* and discuss how people can change things for those who are poor, by changing themselves and choosing to do something for others.
- Children work in groups and create short plays which illustrate how people can change their ways like Zacchaeus did and make life better for others. Class prayer could focus on asking God to help people to change so they can follow Jesus more closely and for those in need.
- Sing 'Turn Back To God'.

Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Plan either to participate in the school Lenten Appeal project or plan a class project, eg a no frills lunch or a sponsored walk to raise funds for people in need

Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Give a partner two examples of how people can change their ways as Zacchaeus did
- **LO 2** Observe group plays