

Achievement Objective

Students will be able to: recognise how the Lenten readings challenge people to follow God's call to live just and holy lives.

Learning Outcomes:

The students will:

- 1 recognise how *Lent* is a time to turn back to God - Te Atua and strive to live a more just and holy life
- 2 explain the meaning of one of the readings of the first days of *Lent*

Preparation for the Lesson:

- *Liturgical Year Calendar*, enlarge, copy and colour, page 3 or Photograph Resource - *Liturgical Year Calendar*
- Teacher Resource - Excerpts of the Readings: *Ash Wednesday - Saturday*, enlarge, copy and cut up one for each group, page 23
- Materials for backpack charts
- Word chart for song 'New Heart And New Spirit'

Teacher's Note: The CARITAS *Lenten Appeal* schools' resources for this year will be required as part of the students' teaching and learning experiences in Lesson 2.

Teacher's Notes:

Lent is a journey of the pilgrim Church towards Easter. It is a journey towards baptism for some which involves penance for the whole community. It is a journey that takes people inward to their own hearts and souls so they can be more closely united to Christ. It is also a journey that helps people reach outward so they can be more closely united to others, particularly those who stand in need of justice - *tika*. It is a journey with Christ where people strive to live more just and holy lives.

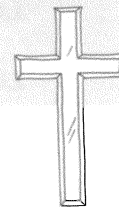
Packed in each pilgrim's *Lenten* 'backpack' to help them on their journey are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is prayer - *karakia*, fasting and almsgiving which help people have a *conversion* of heart and turn their lives back to God - Te Atua. They enable people to deepen their commitment to Christ and the Church and grow in the living of a just and holy life.

On *Ash Wednesday* the Church community - Te Whanau a Te Karaiti gathers together to support one another in their commitment to grow closer to God in their journey to Easter. They listen to the Word of God - Te Kupu a Te Ariki and hear how God requires them to live. As they receive the ashes on their forehead, which come from the burning of last year's palms, the priest makes the sign of the cross and says "Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return" or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel". This signifies their commitment to living according to the gospel of Jesus. They share in the Eucharist and are strengthened to live according to Jesus' teachings with *tika, pono* and *aroha*.

The readings at the daily celebration of the Eucharist during *Lent* remind people about the meaning of prayer - *karakia*, fasting and almsgiving and how to grow in holiness and live justly.

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20



Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Students look at the *Liturgical Year Calendar* and identify the Season of *Lent*. In water-based pen write the date of *Ash Wednesday* this year. Note the colour of the vestments which remind people *Lent* is a time for a *conversion* of heart and turning back to God - Te Atua through prayer - *karakia*, fasting and almsgiving.
- Students do a Numbered Heads Together exercise, see Instructions page 51, to name what is involved in people's *Lenten* journeys. Share ideas with the class including: a *conversion* of heart, a turning back to God, growing in holiness, striving to live with *tika, pono* and *aroha*, prayer - *karakia*, fasting and almsgiving, renewing one's commitment to Christ, a journey with Christ to Easter.
- Students form six groups each with a different Scripture reference from the Teacher Resource, page 23. Each group is to prepare a report about their reading to explain what it is about using the following headings:
 - What God Desires
 - Prayer, Fasting or Almsgiving
 - Ways to Live this Message Today
 - Summary Statement about the Challenge of Living a Just and Holy Life.

Students prepare their report on a chart which could be in the shape of a backpack. Use both written text and illustrations in the report.

- Students present their *Lenten* 'backpack' report using Team Reports: Inside/Outside Circle, see Instructions page 50. Students first read their Scripture reading then speak to their chart explaining their illustrations and how they have understood what the reading means according to each heading. Listen to comments from the other group before they present their reading and report.

Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Sing 'New Heart And New Spirit'

Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Around a circle explain the purpose of *Lent* - a time of *conversion*, a time to turn back to God, a time to grow in holiness, a time to grow in living justly, a journey in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, a time to commit oneself more to Christ, a journey to Easter
- **LO 2** Refer to the students' Team Reports