

**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 identify the teaching of Moses, the prophet Isaiah and Jesus regarding living a just and holy life
- 2 identify how this year's CARITAS Lenten Appeal calls people to live just and holy lives

**Preparation for the Lesson:**

- Teacher Resource - Two Lenten Readings, copy and cut up one for each group, page 25
- Teacher Resource - Two Lenten Parables, copy and cut up one for each group, page 26
- Materials for bumper stickers
- CARITAS Lenten Appeal Schools' Resources for this year
- Student's Activity, page 27 - copy for each student

**Teacher's Notes:**

Jesus mixed with people at all levels of society from rich to poor and challenged them all to follow the will of God. Throughout his life Jesus stood particularly with those who were not well cared for in society or who were unjustly treated. He looked out for those who were sick, widowed or whose *tapu* had been violated and were excluded from society in any way. He showed them that they were especially loved by God and that their ill-fortune, their poverty and their need was of deep concern to God. Jesus taught that people must look out for their neighbour and show them the love - *aroha* and justice - *tika* they require to live with dignity. He knew well the teaching of Moses and the prophets. He told parables to help get his message across to people. To live justly is to live with holiness of life.

The Lenten readings are often quite hard-hitting and can make the followers of Jesus feel uncomfortable. They can also inspire them to act with *tika* - justly, for they remind them what it means to be part of the Kingdom or Reign of God - Te Rangatiratanga. They challenge people to live their Lenten journeys with faithfulness - *pono* and deep love - *aroha*.

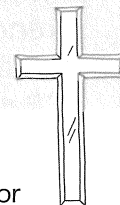
They also invite people to think very seriously about the community and the world in which they live and to look at it as though they were seeing it through the eyes of God - Te Atua. Who is tugging at the heartstrings of God's compassion - *arohanui* in today's society? Who would Jesus stand with against injustice in today's world? These are the people with whom Christians are called to stand. They are called to look on them with compassion - *arohanui* and act for them in justice - *tika*.

There is always a call to care for - *manaaki* people in developing countries devastated by poverty, hunger and injustice. CARITAS is a Catholic organisation that raises people's consciousness about justice issues in the world and works for the just development of needy peoples.

It is also important for people to look at the way they treat the people close to them in their lives - their family members, people in their workplaces, in their schools and classrooms and in their places of play.

**The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.**

**Psalm 147:2-3**



**Teaching and Learning Experiences:**

- Teacher chooses one of the Lenten readings or parables from the Teacher Resources, pages 24 and 25, and reads it to the class. Students list feelings or attitudes that can arise from listening to challenging readings such as this. Responses could be: indignation, guilt, discomfort, passion to act justly for others, helplessness, indifference, anger at injustice, compassion for the needy, unconcern, numbness.
- Students work in twos or threes to name as many words as possible to describe God's attitude to those who seek justice, dignity and the necessities of life. Share responses which could include: special concern, love - *aroha*, compassion, tenderness, mercy, pity, kindness, indignation at their plight.
- Students work in groups with one of the Lenten readings or parables from the Teacher Resources, pages 24 and 25. Students read the text and discuss what it teaches about living a just and holy life. Then write 4 succinct statements that would quickly remind people how their particular reading teaches people to live just and holy lives such as:

**The Leviticus reading**

- Don't steal or cheat in deals
- Help people with special needs
- Make just decisions for others
- Forgive with fudge, don't hold a grudge.

**The Isaiah reading**

- Overcome evil with good
- Seek justice - *tika*
- Stand up for those in need
- Repent and be righteous

**The Luke reading**

- Feed the hungry
- Share the good you have
- Care for - *manaaki* those in need
- Listen to Jesus who rose from the dead

**The Matthew reading**

- Forgive as you are forgiven
- Be just and fair
- Stand up for those wrongly treated
- Forgive from your heart.

Make bumper stickers with the statements and display around the school or classroom.

- Students find out what the CARITAS Lenten Appeal is about this year. Students form groups to study the material provided in the pack and:
  - identify how it calls people to live just and holy lives
  - prepare a time of prayer - *karakia* for the class or school related to the justice issue raised
  - prepare an assembly to inform the school about this year's Lenten Appeal
  - plan for a school based event to raise money for the Lenten Appeal.

**Consolidation and Extension Activities:**

- Students' Activity

**Suggested Assessment Examples:**

- LO 1 Refer to students' bumper stickers
- LO 2 Refer to the Students' Activity