

**Achievement Objective**

Children will be able to: identify Lent as a season when Christians try to live more like Jesus lived.

**Learning Outcomes:**

The children will:

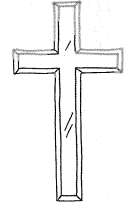
- 1 recognise that the Sign of the Cross is a reminder to live as Jesus lived
- 2 identify some practical ways people can live as Jesus lived.

**Preparation for the Lesson:**

- Photograph Resource - *Liturgical Year Calendar* or enlarge, copy and colour the *Liturgical Year Calendar* on page 3
- Palm from previous *Palm Sunday* and material needed to burn it
- Purple cloth, cross, candle and Bible for prayer table
- Bowl of holy water and a bowl for ashes when they are burnt
- Select from the following Scripture Readings "Listen" Bible Mark 8:27-33 page 40, Luke 9:11-17 page 71, Mark 9:17 -27 pages 68-69, John 13:34-35 page 108
- Children's Activity, page 26 - copy for each child

**If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.**

**Luke 9:23**



**Teacher's Notes:**

The season of *Lent* is a special time which lasts for 40 days. People use this time to get ready for *Holy Week* and Easter. That is the time when we remember how Jesus died on the cross for us, then rose again for us so that we could all share in his new life of grace.

The first day of *Lent* is *Ash Wednesday*. On that day people who follow Jesus are signed with the cross on their foreheads, and reminded that they should try to follow Jesus more closely. Every time people make the Sign of the Cross they are reminded of how much Jesus loves them and how they need to try and live as he lived.

The cross made with the ashes on people's foreheads also reminds them of the cross which was made on their heads when they were baptised. If they are old enough they speak for themselves but if they are not their parents and godparents promise that they will try to follow Jesus.

During the season of *Lent* we can take extra time to think about Jesus, and the sort of person he was, so that we can try to grow more like him. This means listening carefully to stories read about Jesus from the bible, and praying that Jesus will help us to get to know him better.

**Teaching and Learning Experiences:**

- Children identify the season of *Lent* on the *Liturgical Year Calendar*. They share what they recall about the season and set up a prayer table using the appropriate signs and colours, eg a purple cloth, a crucifix and a palm from the previous *Palm Sunday*.
- Children look at the palm from last *Palm Sunday* and watch while it is burnt to make ashes. Teacher makes a cross on a child's head and explains that this is what happens on *Ash Wednesday* and how this is what Catholics do to remind themselves that the season of *Lent* is starting. Children have time to look at the ashes and share their ideas about them. They are reminded that ashes have been used as a sign of saying sorry and wanting to follow Jesus more closely since the days when Jesus lived on earth. The bowl of ashes can be added to the prayer table signs.
- Children name different ways that we use the cross to identify ourselves as friends and followers of Jesus, eg crosses in our homes, the Sign of the Cross when we pray, the signing with the cross at baptism, the signing with ashes at the beginning of *Lent*.
- Children listen to a Scripture story selected from the suggestions above and discuss how they can follow what Jesus did in the story more closely in *Lent* including:
  - how they can heal with words and actions
  - how they can feed people with kindness
  - how they can help people by encouragement
  - how they can pray as Jesus did.The reading could be used during class prayer - *karakia* and children given time to think about how because it is *Lent* they can try harder to do what Jesus did.

**Consolidation and Extension Activities:**

- During class prayers children sign each other with the cross, and bless themselves with holy water - *wai tapu*
- Children sit in a cross formation for morning prayer - *karakia*
- Children's Activity

**Suggested Assessment Examples:**

- **LO 1** Demonstrate how the Sign of the Cross reminds people to live as Jesus lived through drawing, writing or explaining
- **LO 2** Refer to Children's Activity and class discussion