

LESSON NO. 2 TITLE: LENT - A TIME TO REPENT AND DO PENANCE

Achievement Objective

Children will be able to: recognise Lent as a time when Christians are reminded to repent, pray and do penance as they make a forty day journey to Easter.

Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 recognise that *Lent* is a season when Christians are reminded to repent and turn back to God - Te Atua
- 2 explain why people choose to do some form of penance during *Lent*

Preparation for the Lesson:

- Word chart for song 'Turn Back to God'

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2:13



Teacher's Notes:

Lent is a season when people take time to see how they need to change their lives to try to follow Jesus more closely. It is a season when people are especially mindful of repenting, that is telling God they are sorry for the ways they have sinned and failed to love God - Te Atua and one another. It is a season when people choose to do some kind of penance to strengthen their desire to change their hearts and turn back to God.

Choosing some form of penance for *Lent* is not an easy thing to do. Yet when people choose their Lenten penance they are not alone in doing so. The whole Church keeps *Lent* together. Children too can choose how they will do a Lenten penance in order to become more loving like Jesus. They may allow others to choose the TV programmes to watch and give up their own favourite show. They may give up snack foods like chippies, ice creams and lollies. Often their sacrifices will remind them of the many people in the world who never have enough to eat and they will contribute to the CARITAS appeal made during *Lent*. They may stop themselves putting others down and speak only kind words about others. There are many things children choose to do to that will help them turn away from selfishness and live in love - aroha. Being an excellent performer in music or sport requires discipline. We have to spend time in practice and training. It is not always easy to be the best we can be as a sportsperson or as a Christian.

During *Lent* most parishes celebrate Rite II of the *Sacrament of Penance*. In this way the people celebrate God's aroha - mercy and forgiveness and are strengthened by God's love to change their lives. Celebrating the *Sacrament of Penance* is a helpful way for people to turn away from sin and be faithful - pono to the gospel of Jesus.

Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Sing 'Turn Back to God'

Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Finish the sentence: *Lent* is the season when Christians are reminded to repent and turn back to God.
- **LO 2** Tell a partner why people choose to do acts of penance in *Lent*

Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Children do a Timed Talking exercise, see Instructions page 47, to discuss reasons why the Church would have a special season to remind people to repent and turn back to God - Te Atua.
- Children work in small groups to fill a chart with words, phrases and illustrations to show what it could mean for people to turn back to God. Ideas could include:
 - turning away from sin and wrongdoing
 - celebrating the *Sacrament of Penance*
 - worshipping God - Te Atua in the celebration of the Eucharist
 - imitating Jesus' kindness and love - aroha for others.
- Children create a path to Easter with stepping stones. After discussion, children write on the stepping stones, the kinds of Lenten penances children could undertake that would help them follow Jesus more closely.
- Children look at the pathway to Easter and explain why people choose to do acts of penance during *Lent*. Teacher writes their ideas on caption cards and displays them beside the pathway. Ideas could include:
 - penance is a way of saying sorry for sin
 - penance helps people turn back to God - Te Atua
 - penance strengthens people's desire to change their hearts
 - penance helps people learn good habits of love - aroha.
- Children discuss how they could find out the times the *Sacrament of Penance* Rite I is celebrated in the parish and when the parish will gather to celebrate Rite II this *Lent*. Children prepare posters advertising the parish times for the *Sacrament of Penance* in the parish - both Rite I and Rite II and place them around the school.

