

LESSON NO. 3 TITLE: LENT - GROWING IN FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER - KARAKIA

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 people can turn back to God and grow in friendship with God through prayer - karakia
- 2 identify different ways people can participate in prayer - personal, family and the celebration of the Eucharist
- 3 recognise that the *Stations of the Cross* help people pray with Jesus on his way to his death

Preparation for the Lesson:

- Scripture Reading Matthew 6:6
- Prepare caption with Matthew 18:20
- Teacher Resource - *The Stations of the Cross*, enlarge, photocopy and cut up, page 26
- Make a set of numbers from 1-14
- Books on the *Stations of the Cross* from the School Library with pictures and prayers
- Art materials

Teacher's Notes:

The forty day Lenten journey - hikoi to Easter, is a journey made with Jesus. His journey to Easter was through death. The journey of *Lent* is like dying with him to rise with him at Easter. What is to die in the Christian is sin and wrongdoing. So the journey of *Lent* is a journey away from everything that is not of God, and towards everything that brings life in God - Te Atua.

As well as repenting and doing acts of penance, Christians also turn towards God through prayer - karakia. Jesus teaches that it is important to have time alone with God. The Gospel in the Liturgy of the Word on *Ash Wednesday* says "Whenever you pray go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:6). To know God is close and a special friend is a very big reward. It is for this reason that many people find a quiet place where they can pray with God - Te Atua by themselves.

It is also important to pray with others. Christian families-whanau also make time to pray together and in *Lent* will make a special effort to pray together. During *Lent* they may pray about Jesus' journey to his death on the cross. One way to do this is to pray about what happens to Jesus in each of the *Stations of the Cross*.

The greatest prayer - karakia of the Church is the celebration of the Eucharist because the community joins in the prayer of Jesus as he offers himself to his Father. For this reason many people gather for the parish celebration of the Eucharist during the weekdays in *Lent* as well as every Sunday.

Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- During *Lent* pray one or two *Stations of the Cross* each morning for classroom prayer - karakia

Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Refer to Timed Talking exercise
- **LO 2** Around a circle name as many different ways people can participate in prayer
- **LO 3** Finish the sentence: People can pray with Jesus on his way to his death by praying the *Stations of the Cross*.

We adore you O Christ because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Traditional Prayer of the Stations of the Cross.



Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Children listen to Matthew 6:6 and think about a quiet place where they can pray to God in secret. Share ideas with the class.
- Children do a Timed Talking exercise, see Instructions page 47, to give as many reasons they can as to why prayer is an important part of the Christian life. Share the best ideas with the class.
- Children read caption of Matthew 18:20 to identify the importance Jesus places on people gathering together for prayer - karakia.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Children discuss all the ways people can gather together for prayer - karakia at home, at school, in the parish including the most important prayer, the celebration of the Eucharist.

- Teacher explains that praying the *Stations of the Cross* helps people during *Lent* to journey with Jesus in prayer.
- Children working in twos or threes take one of the captions of the *Stations of the Cross* from the Teacher Resource, page 26. As the Teacher shows the pictures of the *Stations of the Cross* from a book the children place their captions in sequence on the floor or attach them to the whiteboard with bluetack. Match each caption with the number of the Station.
- Children stay with partner/s and draw a picture to go with their caption and write the title of the station beneath their picture. Then they write a prayer to Jesus that relates to their station. These could be displayed around the classroom and prayed during classroom prayer. Children may be helped with ideas for their prayers from the books on the Stations.
- The class could visit the church to pray the *Stations of the Cross* there.

