

**Achievement Objective**

Children will be able to: recognise Lent as a time of spiritual growth and renewal in the risen life of Christ both for individuals and the Church community.

**Learning Outcomes:**

The children will:

- 1 explain what it means that *Lent* is a time of renewal and spiritual growth

**Preparation for the Lesson:**

- *Liturgical Year Calendar*, enlarge copy and colour, page 3 or Photograph Resource - *Liturgical Year Calendar*
- Two blank caption cards
- Strips of cardboard and coloured pens
- Word chart for song 'Song for Change'

**Teacher's Notes:**

*Lent* is a season that is especially marked out in the Church as a time of renewal and spiritual growth. This renewal and spiritual growth is so the whole Church will grow closer to God. What does renewal and spiritual growth mean?

Renewal is about making something that has got tired and tattered new again. For Christians, *Lent* is about making their commitment to following the Risen Jesus new again. It is about preparing to renew their Baptismal promises at the celebration of the Eucharist on Easter Sunday.

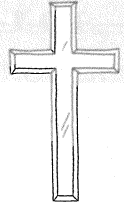
Spiritual growth is about growing in one's friendship with God - Te Atua and others. *Lent* is a time for people to pay particular attention to growing in the life of the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu and becoming more and more attentive to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit within them.

The word *Lent* fits better for people in the Northern Hemisphere than it does in the Southern Hemisphere because it comes from a word that means springtime. In the Northern Hemisphere *Lent* falls in springtime. The Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu, the giver of life is at work in nature bringing new growth to the trees and plants after the long sleep of winter. This helps people become aware that the Holy Spirit also wants to be at work in their lives making them more and more alive in God's own life and love - Mana and Tapu. So *Lent* is a time for people to listen carefully to how God is asking them to live, to respond to God's grace - Mana Atua and grow in their love - aroha of God.

Even though *Lent* does not fall during springtime in Aotearoa New Zealand people here join with the Church throughout the whole world in this time of renewal and spiritual growth. They too are called to come alive in God's love - aroha through the working of the Holy Spirit and to follow the Risen Jesus in their lives more closely.

**Live as children of the light for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.**

**Ephesians 5:8-9**



**Teaching and Learning Experiences:**

- Children look at the *Liturgical Year Calendar* and identify that Lent comes after *Ordinary Time* and before the Season of Easter in the cycle of the *Liturgical Year*.
- Children do a Think Pair Share exercise, see Instructions page 43, to talk about what the terms 'renewal' and 'spiritual growth' mean to them. Children share their ideas with the class and teacher and children write definitions of each on caption cards for the Wall Glossary.
- Teacher explains that *Lent* comes from a word that means springtime. Children list signs of the Holy Spirit at work in nature renewing it after winter.
- Children work in small groups and do a Roundtable exercise, see Instructions page 43, to write what people could do during *Lent* to renew the way they live their Christian life and become better followers of the risen Christ. This could include ideas about prayer - karakia, penance and sharing such as:
  - making times for personal prayer - karakia with God - Te Atua
  - joining with the parish for the celebration of the Eucharist
  - participating in family-whanau prayer - karakia times
  - choosing acts of love - aroha and kindness that help them grow more like Jesus such as writing to grandparents who live far away, helping out without being asked, playing with tika, not putting others down, giving some pocket money to the *Lenten* appeal, caring for brothers and sisters
  - being sorry and asking forgiveness for ways they do not act as Jesus would
  - choosing acts of penance as a way of saying sorry and growing strong enough to change
  - joining with the parish for the celebration of the *Sacrament of Penance*.
- Children share ideas with the class.
- Children take a strip of cardboard and fold it in three to make a *Lenten* Renewal Reminder. Write a different way they could renew their Christian life during *Lent* on each segment and decorate. Tape the ends of the strip of cardboard together so it will stand up on a table.
- Sing 'Song for Change'.

**Consolidation and Extension Activities:**

- Children take home their *Lenten* Renewal Reminder. Each morning they could rotate it and resolve to carry out that action for the day. At night they could talk to Jesus about how they got on with their chosen action and ask him to help them tomorrow to grow closer to him

**Suggested Assessment Examples:**

- **LO 1** Tell a partner what it means that *Lent* is a time of renewal and spiritual growth