

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit of work the children are introduced to some of the Church's customs for the Season of Lent. Children will hear about Lent being a special time of prayer and a season when Christians try to follow Christ by what they do. They will also learn about Lent being a time of saying sorry and asking God's forgiveness for things that they have done wrong.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on the introduction to Lent that some children will have experienced in the Nursery.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children know:

about different seasons in the year as a way of introducing Lent as a new season.

SKILLS

Speaking and listening, role-play, interpreting symbolism, thinking skills.

VOCABULARY

Lent, change, prayer, pray, choices, sorry.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that Lent is an important season in the Church year. They will recall some symbols of the season and understand that it is a special time to pray. They will recognise the prayer of sorrow to be an important prayer of this season.

Less able children will know that Lent is a special time of prayer and a time to try and help others.

More able children will be able to think of some reasons why it is important to use our talents to help other people. They will understand why people ask for forgiveness from God for the things they have done wrong.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C8 To use their own words for prayer.

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes.
Change the classroom so that the prayer focus is purple when the children come in on the first day of Lent which we call Ash Wednesday.
Change the position of the focus in the room to emphasise the beginning of a new season.
Emphasise changes of mood through the change of colours and symbols used in prayer time.

Explain to the children that Lent is a time of prayer. We ask for Jesus' help so that we can be more like him and follow his example.
Ask the children to brainstorm some ideas about how we could pray together as a class this Lent.
Create some words and ideas for a class prayer which explains that we want to be more like Jesus in what we do.
Create a class prayer box where children can post their prayers and one can be chosen each day as part of class prayer time.

L6 Hear about ways in which they are free to choose.

Help the children to recall creation work and the ideas of the gifts of creation and gifts of creation and the gifts of our talents.
Brainstorm and revise with the children their ideas about their gifts and talents.
Create a talent chart for children to think about using their talents during Lent to serve God and to care for other people.
Share with the children a simple version of the Parable of the Talents.
How does this story of Jesus remind us what we have got to do?
Create some prayers about using our gifts and talents.

L10 Recognise responses that are not loving and failure to show love and care.

Remember that a special gift given by God was that of choosing.
Have a box of Liquorice Allsorts. Which one do we choose first? Make a pictogram to show results of choices.

L6 Hear about ways in which they are free to choose.

Explore with the children the idea that we can choose how we behave.
Play a game modelled on "Who wants to be a millionaire?" Children in real life conflict situations, e.g. If you find the classroom in a mess-give choices. "Do you a)? b)? c)?"
Use classroom situations to reinforce the idea of choice during Lent. Stop at points each day to raise questions (e.g. pencils on floor – do we leave them or pick them up, crisps at playtime – do we eat them ourselves or do we offer them to others who have none?)

R6 Hear and become familiar with the main events, characters and places in the life of Jesus.

L5 Hear about ways in which Jesus showed love and respect for others.

Explore with the children that Lent is a time when we can choose to go without something and share with others.
We can choose to go without a snack one day so we can give money to others (e.g. Good Shepherd collection).
Children to hear some stories about people we can try and help during Lent by choosing to give up something.
Reflect with the children on some of the things that Jesus chose to do for other people (e.g. the story of the healing of the blind man. "You can heal me if you really want to.")
How did that choice help the man who was blind?
Recall previous learning about Jesus being the Light of the World.

L10 Recognise responses that are not loving and failures to show love and care.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Know that the liturgical colour for Lent is purple.
Know that the Church uses this colour at this special time to remind people that it is a season of change to try and become like Jesus.

C8 Of how to pray together, that they can speak to God in formal prayer and in their own words.

Know that Lent is a special time when we try to be more like Jesus.
Recognise that Lent is a special time for prayer.

L6 That God gives freedom to everyone as a gift.

Know that God has given each individual special gifts and talents.
Be able to think how these can be simply used during the Season of Lent.
Hear and recall the Parable of the Talents.
Understand that Jesus told this story to remind his followers to use their talents properly.

L10 That choices affect ourselves and others.

L6 That God gives freedom to everyone as a gift.

L5 That Jesus gives an example of love and respect for others.

Know that Lent is a time when we can choose to do something special for other people to show we are trying to follow Jesus.

L10 That choices effect other people and ourselves.

Know the story of the Healing of the Blind Man.
Understand that Jesus chose to help him.
Reflect on their opportunities to help other people during Lent.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Recipe for pancakes.

Create a big purple banner to go across the classroom telling everybody that it is the Season of Lent.

Share with the children something of the work of the Good Shepherd Appeal.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R9 Recognise the need to say sorry and ask for forgiveness.

Change the lunchtime grace during Lent to emphasise that this is a time to change. Reflect with the children about some of the things that they would like to change in their own lives.

Gather each day to say sorry. Light purple candle as sign that it is time to reflect on day and the choices made.
Children will learn that it is important to say sorry to each other and to God Our Father for those times when we have made bad choices.
Revise sorry prayer and song from previous unit.
Use dance and movement as a way of expressing some of the thoughts and prayers in this Lenten unit.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

R9 We can ask God to forgive us when we pray.

Know that Christians say sorry to God Our Father when they have done something that is wrong.

Hear and join in prayers to God Our Father about being sorry.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 25: 14-30 – The Parable of the Talents

Lk. 19:11-27

Mk. 10: 46-52 – The Healing of the Blind Man

Mt. 20: 29-34

OTHER LINKS

Introduce the children to the work Fr. Hudson's Society and the Good Shepherd Appeal during Lent.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Use some of the Lenten symbols in collective worship during the season. Remind the children about the purple display being special for the season of Lent.

Use the class "sorry" prayer regularly during Lent.

Use the "Prayer Box" prayers during class Collective Worship.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?