

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!



- Theme:** Following Jesus' example of spreading the good news of God's love. 1st Sunday in Lent
- Object:** A newspaper
- Scripture:** After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:14-15

There was a time when you could walk the streets of a city and hear the voice of a newspaper boy crying out, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it." He called out to get the attention of people who were passing by so that they would come to him and buy a newspaper. That was the way the news was spread in those days.

How do people get their news today? People get their news in many different ways. For some, the newspaper is still their main source for news and they read it from cover to cover. Some may get their news from the radio. Probably the main way that people get the news today is from television. No matter how we get our news, it is important for us to know what is going on in the world around us.

Did you know that Jesus himself was in the news business? The Bible says that Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. Listen to what he said, "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." Jesus wanted everyone to know the good news of God's love for them.

How do people get the good news of God's love today? Some may get it from newspapers, radio or television. Some may come to church and hear about God's love. But the best way to spread the good news of God's love is the same today as it was in Jesus' day. The best way is for you and me to tell others about it!

You and I should be like the newsboy standing on the street corner crying out, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it! The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news -- God loves you!"

Dear Jesus, help us to follow your example and share the good news of God's love with everyone we meet. Amen.

ROLLED UP GOOD NEWS: Give children white paper to write EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! And on an extra sheet of white paper (to be rolled up), have children write REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS! Mark 1:15. Roll the newspaper up and tie with a ribbon or a rubber band. Encourage children to share their good news with someone else!

FOLLOW THE LEADER: Everyone will be given a rolled up newspaper and will follow the leader in whatever the leader does with the newspaper. Take turns in leading the class and saying REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS, every time a new "action" is shown by the leader! Encourage

children to shout out GOOD NEWS!!

GOOD NEWS RECORDING: Have a tape recorder available for children to tell the story about today's lesson on the recording, as well as reciting the Bible verse together, etc. Children will love to hear their voices telling the story.

HEARTS GOOD NEWS: Give children various colors of construction paper to cut out hearts of all sizes. Make a long banner by placing hearts in order from largest to smallest and gluing the tips of them to the next heart to make a lengthwise wall hanging. Write GOOD NEWS, Jesus LOVES us, Repent, believe the good news, etc on each heart. Hang the hearts by a ribbon at the top.

GOOD NEWS MEGAPHONE: Each child can be given part of a poster board to decorate and write GOOD NEWS and then roll the poster board to look like a megaphone and tape well. Let children march around the room or designated area and shout into their megaphones, REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS!!!

BIBLE GOOD NEWS ACROSTIC: Provide each child with a colorful piece of paper and the big letters of B-I-B-L-E along the left side. Work together as a class for ideas of an acrostic for the GOOD NEWS of the Bible!

GOOD NEWS STORYTIME: Let children draw pictures of some GOOD NEWS story in the Bible. They will enjoy thinking together of the GOOD NEWS of each Bible story that the teacher suggests to them, such as Daniel in the Lion's Den, Joseph, Jonah, etc.

Into the Wilderness with Jesus



Theme: Preparing ourselves for following Christ. 1st Sunday in Lent (Yr. B)

Object: No object is needed.

Scripture: At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Mark 1:12-13 (NIV)

Do you remember the baptism of Jesus? Let's see how much we can remember about the baptism of Jesus.

Who baptized Jesus? (John)

Where was Jesus baptized? (Jordan River)

As Jesus came out of the water, what happened? (The Spirit descended like a dove and settled on him) A voice was heard from heaven. What did it say? ("You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.")

Do you know what happened next? (Wait for an answer. They probably don't know.)

You know, a lot of people don't know what happened next, but our Bible lesson today tells us what happened next. The Bible tells us that immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led him out into the wilderness. What does that mean? A wilderness area is an area where there are no towns, no people, no roads, few trees or plants, and, in this particular case, it was very hot and dry. That doesn't sound like a very good place to be, does it? Well, it wasn't, but that's not all! The Bible tells us that Jesus was there for forty days and while he was there, he was tempted by Satan and was surrounded by wild animals but angels took care of him.

Why do you think Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan? He was led there by the Spirit so that He could be alone with God to think about his work and pray over his future plans. Through fasting and prayer, he prepared himself to travel the hard road that lay ahead. This was a time that Jesus had to endure before he could call his followers and begin his earthly ministry by calling his disciples to come and follow him.

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent. What is Lent? Lent is the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to the celebration of Easter. It is a time when we pray and think about all that Jesus has done for us. Some people observe Lent by giving up something that they like very much such as eating candy, playing video games, watching TV, or going to the movies. Others observe Lent by trying to concentrate on doing good for other people such as giving to the poor, visiting the sick, collecting canned goods for the Church food pantry, or doing chores for a neighbor. These are good things to do, but most of all, Lent is a time when we focus on the call of Jesus when he said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) Just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry. Lent is a good time for us to draw closer to God and dedicate ourselves to following Jesus.

Heavenly Father, just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness to prepare for doing your work on earth, help us to use this special time of the year to prepare our hearts for serving you in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WILDERNESS WANDERING: Divide the children into two teams for the wilderness trip. Provide an area with obstacles that the children can hide and run around. One team will represent the wild animals and one team will represent the angels (as in our Bible verse today). The teacher or a leader can represent Jesus in the wilderness and the wild animals will growl as they prowl around the area and the angels will circle around him to protect him from the wild animals.

SERVICE PANTOMIME: Divide the children into several groups to take turns performing a pantomime of a service that they might do for someone or some activity they might choose to give up during Lent while the other children try to guess what they are doing. The teacher might have a bag of ideas written on slips of paper for the children to draw from or the children can make up their own pantomime.

LENTEN BRAINSTORMING: Lead the children in brainstorming for ways we can make the season of Lent more meaningful. If the children have trouble getting started, the teacher might make suggestions such as spending time each day in prayer and Bible reading; performing good deeds such as washing someone's car windows, washing the nursery toys, cleaning up litter, reading a book to a small child or making a card for someone who is sick in the congregation.

HAND PRINTS: Provide the children with finger paints and paper to make their hand prints on a sheet of paper and then use a small brush or cotton swab to write in the paint, SERVING JESUS.

PIE PLATE: Give each child a paper plate and some colored markers. The children will use a ruler to draw lines in the plate give it the appearance of a pie that has been sliced. Fill each slice of the pie with a picture of a service to do for others or a picture of something a person might give up for Lent, as well.

40 DAY CALENDAR: Give the children a sheet of paper with lines drawn on it to form forty square to create a calendar for the 40 days of lent. Have the children write the dates in each square (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter Sunday! Stickers or little drawings can be placed in each square with ideas from today's lesson. Hang their calendars on the classroom wall for children to mark off days each time they are in class by drawing a happy or placing a happy face sticker, if available.

SERVING GOD BUTTONS: Have the children cut out a large circle on card stock and color and decorate the "button" by writing, I AM SERVING GOD on their buttons. The teacher will hot glue a safety pin to the back of the button for children to wear as they serve others.