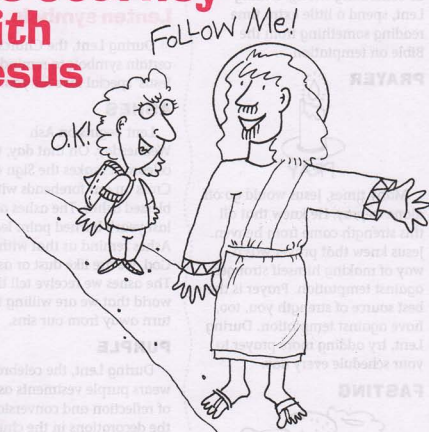


Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

L1, Lent • What Is Lent?

We Journey with Jesus



During Lent, the Church begins a special journey, one that follows the path of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We recall his terrible death on the cross. We remember that his suffering and death were great acts of love and forgiveness. We finish our journey as we celebrate his glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

As new Catholic Christians, this Lent will be a memorable time for you. Even though Lent is a time to remember sad things, you will learn that it is also a time of joy. During Lent, you will

learn more about Jesus' love, and feel yourself becoming closer to him. On this special Easter Sunday, you will respond to God's love with your own special "Yes."

Jesus in the wilderness

Do you remember the story of Jesus' baptism? Jesus went to John the Baptist and was baptized in the Jordan River. Suddenly, a voice from heaven announced that Jesus is God's own son. The people who were there didn't know Jesus yet. They thought that he was just a carpenter's son who lived in the little town of Bethlehem.

When they heard that voice announcing, "You are my Son, the Beloved" (Luke 3:22), some of the people wondered if Jesus was the Savior God promised them many years ago.

After his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness to pray and fast.

**"You are
my Son, the
Beloved."**

Luke 3:22

This was to prepare for the work God had sent him to do. As he prayed, the devil came to tempt him. "If you are the Son of God," said the devil, "command this stone to become a loaf of bread" (Luke 4:3). Although Jesus was hungry from fasting, he wasn't fooled by the devil. He said, "One does not live by bread alone" (Luke 4:4).

Next, the devil took him to a high mountain, where he could look down on all the kingdoms of the world. "If you...will worship me, it will all be yours" (Luke 4:7), said the devil. Jesus answered, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him" (Luke 4:8).

Then the devil placed Jesus on the very top of the Temple in Jerusalem and said, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for...[God] will command his angels...to protect you" (Luke 4:9-10). But Jesus said to him, "[The Bible says], 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test'" (Luke 4:12).

Then the devil left Jesus and the angels came to care for him. When he came out of the wilderness, he was strong and filled with the Spirit — and ready to do God's will.

List a time when you were tempted to do something wrong and tell how you resisted the temptation.

Three ways to resist temptation

GOD'S WORD



When Jesus was tempted by the devil, he quoted the word of God. The Bible has many helps for you when you're tempted to do something wrong. During Lent, spend a little extra time reading something from the Bible on temptation.

PRAYER



Many times, Jesus would go off alone to pray. He knew that all this strength came from heaven. Jesus knew that prayer was a way of making himself stronger against temptation. Prayer is the best source of strength you, too, have against temptation. During Lent, try adding more prayer to your schedule every day.

FASTING



"Fasting" means to give up certain foods to remind you of all the good things God provides every day. During Lent, you can give up special treats and donate the money you would've spent for them to children who may not have as many good things as you. This kind of fasting brings you closer to God and God's people at the same time.

What will you do during Lent to help you be closer to God? List three things you can do during Lent to make you a better Christian.

Lenten symbols

During Lent, the Church uses certain symbols to remind you of Jesus' special love for you.

ASHES

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. On that day, the celebrant makes the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads with blessed ashes. The ashes are from last year's burned palm leaves. Ashes remind us that without God, we are like dust or ashes. The ashes we receive tell the world that we are willing to turn away from our sins.

PURPLE

During Lent, the celebrant wears purple vestments as a sign of reflection and conversion. All the decorations in the church are also purple. This color reminds us of Jesus' suffering and death.

PALMS

Just before Easter Sunday, the Church celebrates Holy Week. We hold the palms and remember the people who spread them to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. Yet, we know that after the people honored Jesus as their king, he was put to death on the cross. The palms remind us to honor Jesus as our king and to thank him for his love.



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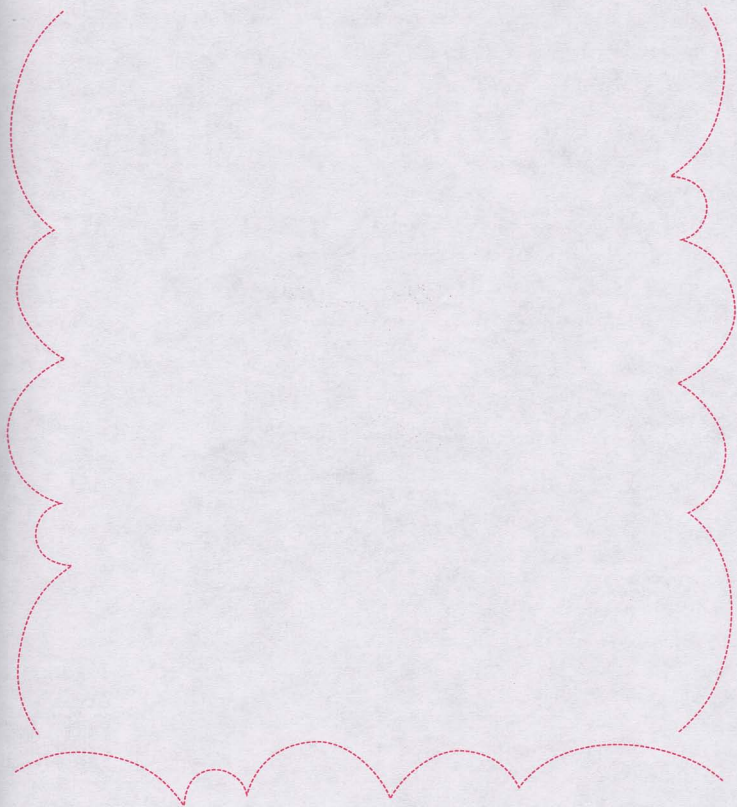
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The title "My Space" is written in a black, cursive-style font at the top center of the page. It is surrounded by seven pink pushpins: two on the left, one above the 'y', one above the 'S', and three on the right.

My Space



My Space

...and with Jesus
...to the land
...and some only live

Write 100

When the devil placed Jesus on the very top of the Temple in Jerusalem and said, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for... (God) will command his angels... to protect you." (Luke 4:9-10). But Jesus said to him, "[The Bible says], 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Luke 4:12).

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FASTING



"Fasting" means to give up certain foods to remind you of all the good things God provides every day. During Lent, you can give up special treats and donate the money you would've spent for them to children who may not have as many good things as you do. Instead of fasting from food, you could fast from TV, video, or people at the mall.

Lenten Symbols

During Lent, the Church carries symbols to remind Jesus' special love for

ASHES

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. On that day, a priest makes the sign of the Cross on our foreheads with blessed ashes. The ashes are from last year's burned palm leaves. Ashes remind us that without God, we are like dust or ash. The colors we choose tell the world that we are with- turning away from our sins.

PURPLE

During Lent, the celebrants wear purple vestments as a sign of reflection and conversion. The deacon and the priest wear purple. This color reminds us of Jesus suffering on the cross.

PALE

Just before Easter, the Church celebrates Palm Sunday. On this day, the people who welcome Jesus into Jerusalem wear purple. Yet, we know that Jesus, the people who love him, and the king, he was crucified. The people who love him, the king, he was crucified. The people who love him, the king, he was crucified.

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Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

L2, Lent • Saying "Yes" to Jesus

"Election" means "Choosing"

Before you were born, God chose you for a special purpose. You've been studying about God's call to serve. You know that Jesus comes to you through the sacraments. You learned about the Church and have worshiped with the community. Now's your time of choosing and being chosen.

In a ceremony called *The Rite of Election*, the members of your Catholic community will say "yes" to your decision to follow Jesus through the Church. Then they'll write your names in the Book of Enrollment, "the chosen."

Now begins the final part of your journey with Jesus.

Jesus is calling

The first thing Jesus did as he began his journey was to choose people who would walk with him and help him in his work for God. But not everyone who was called by Jesus said "Yes." Here are a couple of those people:

There was one rich young man who wanted to walk with Jesus. Jesus told the young man that he had to sell all his possessions and give his money to the poor. The man did not want to give everything away, so he said "No." This made Jesus very sad.

Pretend you're that rich man, or Jesus, and write down your feelings.

Another man was called to come follow Jesus. This man told Jesus he would join him later, after his father died. This man wanted to follow Jesus, but said "Not yet."

Is there anything in your life that would keep you from following Jesus right now?

The first twelve people who chose to follow Jesus are called "apostles." All followers are called "disciples." You have heard some of their stories. Now that you're ready to say "Yes" to Jesus, you too will become a disciple. To help you better understand discipleship and call, here's a story about how Jesus

called the apostles and continues to call others to follow his way.

The disciples had a lot to look forward to if they stayed with Jesus. He was the Messiah. To them, that meant Jesus would help Israel break free. But there was a price to pay — truth. The disciples weren't ready for the truth that the cross brought.

The saddest loss for Jesus probably came after his arrest. His closest friends ran away in fear. They were scared of what could happen to them.

What kind of choices can you make to be an active disciple of Jesus?

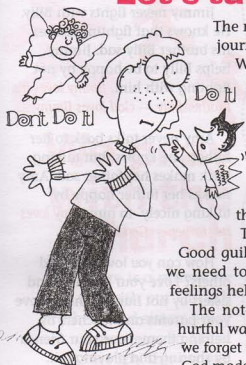
What can you look forward to as a disciple?



Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

L3, Lent • Looking at Myself

Let's talk about guilt



The next step in joining Jesus on his journey is called the "Scrutinies."

When we scrutinize something, we examine it carefully to discover what is and what isn't real. We are going to look carefully at those things that make us feel guilty or bad. Guilt is that "sorry" feeling we have in our heart when we do something that is wrong or we think is wrong.

There are two types of guilt.

Good guilt reminds us of habits or actions we need to change about ourselves. These feelings help us become better Christians.

The not-so-good guilt makes us act in hurtful ways. When we have these feelings, we forget that we are the wonderful people God made.

Name that guilt

**List three times when you have felt guilty.
Describe how you felt at these times and why.**

There are three reasons that you may feel guilty. Read them and then review those times you wrote on your list. Where do they belong?

1. You feel guilty when you do something hurtful to God or another person.

Did you know that the only real sin is to not be loving? Jesus said the two great commandments are "Love God with your whole heart and soul and love your neighbor as yourself" (see Matthew 22:37-39). When you fail to love, you feel guilty or sorry. *This is good guilt.* It shows that you are aware of those things in yourself that need to change.

2. You feel guilty when you think you "should" do or not do something because of someone else's actions.

This is the kind guilt you feel when you think you aren't as "perfect" or as "good" as someone else.

If your best friend helps the teacher after school but your mother told you to come straight home, do you feel guilty because you think you "should" help the teacher, too? *This is not good guilt.* Jesus loves you for listening to your mother.

Do you feel guilty when your older brother or sister always comes home with better grades no matter how hard you work? Do you think you "should" earn better grades? *This is not good guilt.* God made you and loves you just the way you are.

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

L4, Lent • The Nicene Creed

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day, he rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen

We pray with the Church

Here is a prayer we
say with our Church
brothers and sisters every
time we go to Mass.

As we say this prayer,
we remember that the
whole community joins us
on our journey to
follow Jesus.



Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

L5, Lent • The Way of the Cross

In the Footsteps of the Lord

Walking with Jesus is not always easy. His life was short but great. Jesus gave his life for us and in return, we must also share his sorrow. Catholics use a meditation known as the Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross to share in Jesus' suffering. The stations help us pray with Jesus as he walks the Way to the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross was brought back from the Holy Land by pilgrims. They meditated on Jesus' suffering

as they walked from the Garden of Gethsemane to Calvary. When they returned, some of the pilgrims put up crosses, pictures, and other reminders of the Holy Land Shrines. They wanted to reproduce the stations they saw on their pilgrimage.

Eventually, 14 stations were accepted. Most of them are based on gospel scenes, though some are legends or reflections of Christ's suffering.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

THE FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to die.

Jesus' trial is over. Pilate asks the people, "Shall I crucify your king?" They reply, "We have no king but Caesar."

*"It isn't fair!" I want to cry
when Jesus is condemned to die.
Jesus, make me strong like you
when blamed for things I didn't do.*

THE SECOND STATION

Jesus bears his cross.

Jesus has a long way to carry this heavy cross. How great is his love, to suffer so much for us.

*Worries, illness, problems, cares
are crosses I am asked to bear.
By your cross you lead the way
and give me strength to face each day.*

THE THIRD STATION

Jesus falls for the first time.



Jesus has been badly beaten and is very weak. He falls to his knees under the weight of the heavy cross.

*It makes me sad to have to see
the Son of God down on his knees.
Dear Jesus, help me start anew
each time I fall when following you.*

THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his mother.

Imagine how sad Mary feels right now. Her heart is broken by her son's pain just as your mother's heart aches for you when you're sick or unhappy.

*Dear Mary, it must make you cry
to know your only child will die.
Today, I'll let my loved ones know
that I will always love them so.*

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

L6, Lent • The Lord's Prayer

JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

Some people asked Jesus to teach them to pray. This is what he taught them.

THE Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen



Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

L7, Lent • Holy Week

The Stories of Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is also called "Passion Sunday." On this day, we hear two stories about Jesus. The first story tells how people greeted Jesus when he entered Jerusalem. The second story is long and sad. It tells of how Jesus was betrayed, arrested, and crucified. This is called the "Passion of Jesus."



Hail to the King!

Every year, on the feast of the Passover, God's people gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate God's care and protection. The citizens heard that Jesus was coming.

They went out to meet him, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel."

Jesus came through the gates riding on a donkey. The people spread their coats on the road and laid palm branches for him to ride on. He rode into Jerusalem like a true king, with the cheers and blessings of the crowd.

On Palm Sunday, we still wave palm branches and greet Jesus with shouts of joy.

How would you feel if you were in the crowd that day? What would you have said to greet Jesus when he came?

The Passion Story

In Jerusalem, Jesus and his friends celebrated the Passover feast together. When the feast was over, Jesus led his disciples out into the garden of Gethsemane to pray. While he was praying, some soldiers came and arrested him.

Jesus was put on trial for calling himself a king. The judge told the soldiers to take him out and crucify him. The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They stripped him of his clothes and forced him to put on a scarlet robe, the same kind a king would wear. Then the soldiers put a crown of thorns on his head. After they tortured him for a while, they

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

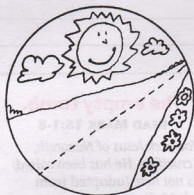
L8, Lent • Catechumenate Retreat Day

Beginning a New Journey

You've come a long way. You've learned a lot about God and Jesus. You and your parish family will soon celebrate your new life with Jesus.

God all around you.

READ GENESIS 1:1-2:2



God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good (adapted from Genesis 1:31).

Begin your journey by realizing how close God is to you at all times. Go outside where you can feel God's presence. Look at God's handiwork in nature, see the flowers and grass. See the new leaves growing on the trees. Breathe in the freshness of the spring air. Give thanks to God by saying a little prayer.

Name two times when
you feel closest to God.

Are you ready?

READ GENESIS 22:1-18



God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Ready!" he replied (adapted from Genesis 22:1).

"Do you trust me? Are you ready?" God asked Abraham. As you prepare to enter the Church, God asks you these same questions.

"Do you trust me?"

Are you ready?"

How will you
answer God?

God's love changes everything.

READ EXODUS 14:15-31



Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses (adapted from Exodus 14:31).

Like God's people, you have been on a journey. God's love has been changing you. Answer the following question to help you see the miracle God is working in you.

**How have you changed
from when you first started
learning about the Church?**
