

Mission Together

Lent Activity: Signs of Hope



Introduction

Explain to the class that in this activity they will be thinking about Lent and how, through sharing and prayer, they can be signs of hope for the world.

Reflection

Ask the children about their Lenten 'Signs of Hope' assembly and the lessons they learnt from it.

Remind the children that Lent is a special time of new life for the followers of Jesus. In Lent, Christians make a special effort to spend more time doing three things that were important to Jesus: living simply, sharing what we have with others, and prayer.

Ask the children what they can remember about snowdrops?

Remind them that snowdrops are special little flowers. Although they are only small and look delicate, they are very strong and are the first flowers of the year to break through the hard, cold earth. Because of this, snowdrops are a sign of hope. They tell us that winter is coming to a close and nature is springing back to life.

Ask the children if they've noticed any snowdrops yet. If so, what did the sight of these little flowers make them feel?

Snowdrops should encourage us to remember that our Lenten efforts, although they may be small, become beautiful signs of hope for the world. Giving up things we want in order to help provide others with the things they need, makes us feel happy, as does the sight of snowdrops in bloom after a cold and dark winter.

Activity

Explain to the children that they will be making snowdrops as symbols of hope and the new life of spring. Ask them to think about what they could do this Lent as a sign of hope. What could they give up so as to share with others?

They could give up a few minutes each day to pray for children in poverty across the world. They could forgo a favourite programme to read a story to a younger relative. They could give some of their pocket-money to Mission Together.

The children's snowdrops will each have two leaves. On one leaf they should write (or draw) one thing they will give up this Lent. On the second leaf they should write (or draw) the act of kindness their sacrifice will enable them to achieve e.g. giving up a few minutes playtime to pray for children living in poverty overseas.

When the children have finished, you may want to stick all of their snowdrops onto a wall, to create a Lenten 'Garden of Hope' display. Alternatively, you could create a garden display by filling a large tray or trough with soil and inviting the children to 'plant' their snowdrops by placing them into the soil. As you approach Good Friday and Easter Sunday, this 'Garden of Hope' could host the three crosses and Jesus' tomb, strengthening the message that Lent is also a time of preparation for Jesus' great act of self-giving and new-life.

For this activity you will need

- Bendy green straws
- Cotton pads
- PVA glue
- Green sugar paper
- Scissors

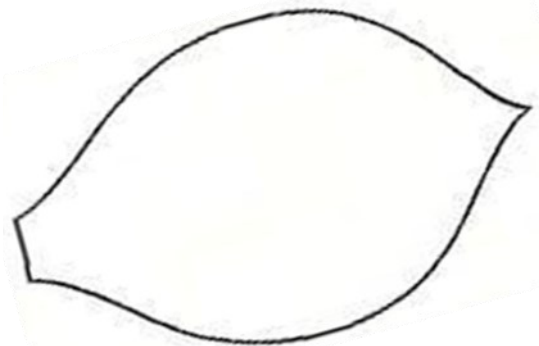


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Lent Activity: Instructions



1. Draw two leaf shapes on green paper. These should be small enough to attach to your straw, but big enough to write or draw on. The leaf shape below is about the right size.

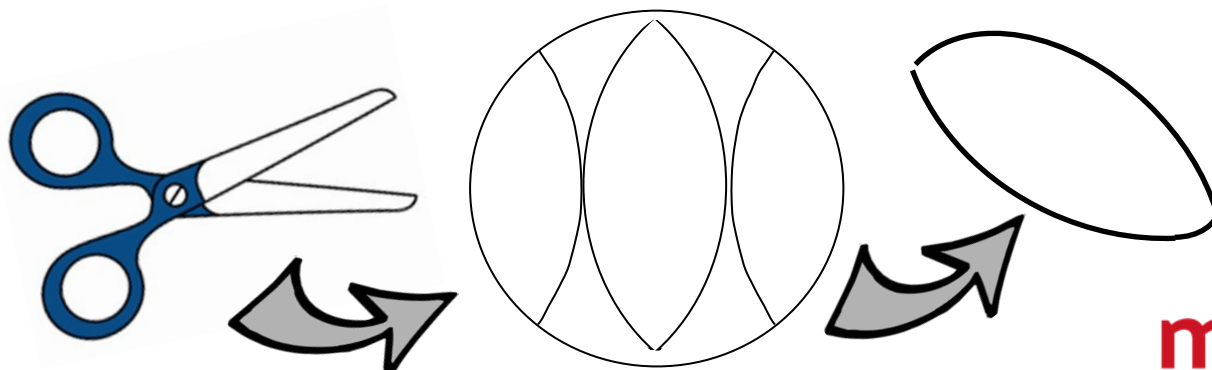
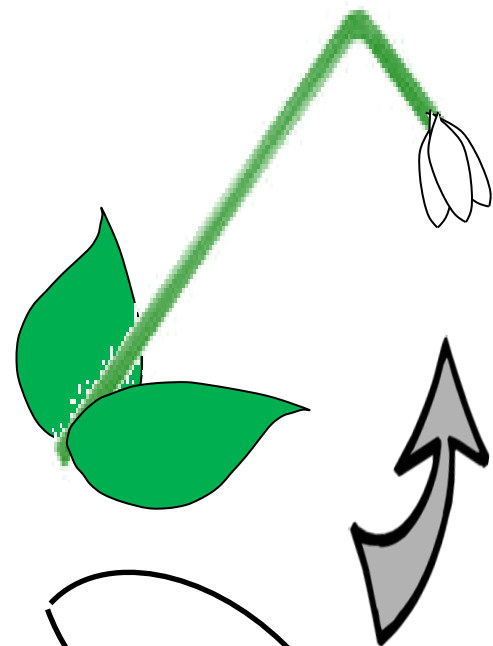


For this activity you will need

- Bendy green straws
- Cotton pads
- PVA glue
- Green paper
- Scissors

2. On one leaf, write or draw one thing you will give up to help others this Lent e.g. watching a favourite TV programme
3. On the second leaf draw or write about the act of kindness your sacrifice will allow you to achieve e.g. read a story to my younger brother or sister.

4. Now cut out your two green leaves and use glue to stick the onto the bottom of a bendy green drinking straw.
5. Next cut three petal shapes from a single cotton pad - follow the example below.
6. Stick the three white petals at the shorter end of the bent straw.
7. Allow the glue to dry before displaying your snowdrop in your Lenten Garden of Hope



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