

Mission Together

Lent Activities: Encouraging Envelopes



Inspired by the Gospel reading (Luke 13:1-9) in our *Week Three Lent Liturgy*, these activities reinforce the key message: **Be patient and encouraging of others.**

Introduction for children: Can you remember the Gospel reading we heard in our prayer time? In it we heard about a man who was impatient with his fig tree and so told the gardener to cut the tree down. Can you remember how the gardener responded?

Thankfully the gardener was able to persuade the man to be patient. The gardener had confidence that, with time and encouragement, the fig tree would bear fruit.

Some people say that the gardener in the story is Jesus. Jesus is ready to encourage and care for us; we just need to ask for His help. We can do this through prayer. Jesus also wants us to encourage and care for one another, so that we can all grow in faith and friendship.

We're going to do that today by creating some *Encouraging Envelopes*.

For this activity you will need:

- Copy of appendix one per pupil
- Scissors
- Coloured pens or pencils

Instructions

- Give each pupil a copy of appendix one.
- They are to cut along the thick black line until they are left with an envelope shape.
- Explain that they are going to write an encouraging message to the pupil sitting next to them, but that this message will be written in private (you could ask pupils to move to another part of the classroom to do this).
- Before the pupils write their message, which will be placed in the middle section of their *Encouraging Envelope*, they must spend a few minutes reflecting on the message they think their chosen recipient would appreciate. For example, maybe the recipient has been struggling with maths, but their neighbour has noticed how they are trying really hard. Or perhaps the recipient is uncertain about their role in a team or group, but their neighbour has witnessed their commitment and cooperation.
- Once pupils have written their message, they are to fold along the dotted lines so that the four periphery sections cover the message. The side edges should be folded in first, but not stuck down. Then the bottom section and finally the top flap. This can be secured with a single sticker or piece of washi tape.
- When all are complete, the Encouraging Envelopes can be exchanged. It is a good idea to incorporate this into a short prayer time, underlining again how important it is to encourage one another as we do our best to follow the example of Jesus.

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

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Registered in England and Wales Charity No. 1056651

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Appendix one

