Mission Together

Lent Liturgical Prayer: Week Two

Introduction for teachers / leaders: Lent lasts for 40 days, echoing the period of time Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his public ministry. It is a time of preparation for the greatest feast in the Church year, Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead. During Lent, Christians devote more time to prayer, charity and sacrifice. Our Lent liturgical prayers include the Sunday's Gospel (in 2023 these are taken from Year A) and invite children to reflect on Jesus' words and actions.

Liturgy Plan

This liturgical prayer focuses on the Gospel for the second Sunday of Lent, when God tells the disciples to listen to his Son, Jesus.

GATHER: Setting the scene

Please refer to our guide: *How to Pray with Children* https://missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/

Opening hymn or recorded music

Suggested hymn: *Majesty, worship his majesty*

Sign of the cross, Opening Prayer

Print the opening prayer on page 2 and ask pupils to read.

Introduction

Print the introduction on page 2 and ask pupils to read.

WORD: Bible reading (Year A): Matthew 17:1-9 adapted for children.

Print the reading on page 2 and ask pupils to read. A pupil Gospel drama is also available on page 5.

Bible reflection

See page 3. We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

RESPOND: Prayers of intercession

Print the prayers of intercession on page 4 and ask pupils to read.

SENT: Mission Together prayer

See to the right.

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: *Shine Jesus Shine*

Follow up activities

Listen to Him (EYFS/KS1 activity)
Why do we pray more in Lent? KS1/2 PDF workbook

Download these and other activities from our Lent Webpage.

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.
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Lent Liturgical Prayer: Week Two

Introduction

Reader: As we come together to pray, we remember that we are in week two of Lent. Lent is a time in which Christians prepare for the great feast of Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead to win for us new life with God in heaven.

Reader: In our Gospel reading today, we hear how Jesus led his disciples to a high mountain top. There something brilliant occurs!

Reader: Let's begin with our opening prayer, then listen to our reading and the glorious things Jesus' disciples see and hear on their mountain top experience.

Sign of the Cross and Opening Prayer

Reader: God our Father, through our prayers, fasting and acts of kindness this Lent help us to reveal your glory to the people around us.
Open our eyes to see the wonder of your creation.
And open our ears to listen to the words of your Son.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bible reading: From the Gospel of St Matthew

Reader: Jesus led Peter and James and his brother John up a high mountain where they could be alone. There, Jesus's appearance changed and he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared; they were talking to Jesus.
While they were speaking a bright cloud covered them and a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son. I love Him. I am pleased with Him. Listen to Him.'
When they heard this, the disciples fell down, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up to them, touched them and said, 'Stand up. Do not be afraid.'
When they looked up they saw no one but only Jesus. After this, Jesus led Peter, James and John back down the mountain, with the clear instruction to 'Tell no one what you have seen and heard until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **R/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Bible Reflection (We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain)

In the reading we've just heard, Jesus led three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, to the top of a high mountain. There's a special reason why Jesus did this. In the Bible, mountains are places where people can be closer to God, our Father in Heaven.

Can you remember what happened when Jesus and his disciples reached the top of the mountain. Firstly, Jesus' face his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. The painting on screen illustrates this amazing moment. If you look closely you can see that, so brilliant was the light, that one of the disciples has to shield his eyes!

The second special thing that happens is the appearance of two great prophets, Moses and Elijah. The disciples must have been very surprised to see these prophets, as both Moses and Elijah had died hundreds of years ago. The painting shows another disciple wide eyed with awe at the scene before him.

If seeing Jesus as brilliant as the sun, and the prophets Moses and Elijah alongside wasn't shocking enough, then what happened next must have really stunned the disciples. They heard God's voice speak from heaven. I'm going to ask you a question, I don't want an answer, but I'd like you to think about it in your head. Can you remember what God said and what the disciples were asked to do?

God said he loved His Son Jesus, was pleased with him, and that the disciples should listen to Jesus.

These amazing events on the mountain top were God's way of telling Peter, James, and John how special Jesus is. But the main lesson God wanted the disciples to learn, wasn't just that His son was special, but that we must listen to what Jesus says and act on his words.

I'm going to ask you another question, again I don't want an answer, but I'd like you to think about it in your head. How can we listen to Jesus?

- We can hear Jesus speak to us through readings from the Gospels.
- We can hear Jesus speak to us through those who care about us: family members who tell us how to stay safe; teachers who teach us how to learn; priests and nuns who help to explain the scriptures, and friends who are kind to us.
- We can hear Jesus in our hearts; not in the way we hear someone speaking to us through our ears. Jesus speaks to us when we think about ways we can help someone in need, or when we think of a person who needs our prayers.
- Another special way we can hear Jesus is through prayer. Prayer is a conversation. In prayer just like in any conversation we have with our friends, we talk to Jesus and listen to him in our hearts.

Let's talk and listen to Jesus now as we join with our bidding prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Reader: The response to our prayer is: **Hear our prayer.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, help us to open our ears to hear the voice of your Son, Jesus. Help us always to follow his teaching and so build your world of mercy and love.

Lord, in your mercy...

Reader: Heavenly Father, guide all the children, families and staff in our school. Help us always to listen to one another with kindness and respect.

Lord, in your mercy…

Reader: Heavenly Father, may we always be ready to hear the cry of those people who suffer; those close to home and those far away. Teach us to be listen with our heart as well as our ears.

Lord, in your mercy...

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for children overseas whom Mission Together helps: those who are poor, hungry, sad or scared. May they find hope in your love and may we always be ready to help them.

Lord, in your mercy...

Reader: Let us now say the Mission Together prayer.

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love,
Now and forever. Amen.

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music: *Shine Jesus Shine*

Narrator 1: Jesus led Peter and James and his brother John up a high mountain where they could be alone.

Narrator 2: When they finally reached the top Jesus was transfigured; his appearance changed into something magnificent! His face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light.

Narrator 1: The disciples were surprised!

Narrator 2: Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared. They were talking to Jesus. Then a bright cloud covered them with shadow and a voice from the cloud said,

God: *(with authority)* 'This is my Son. I love Him. I am pleased with Him. Listen to Him.'

Narrator 1: When they heard this, the disciples fell down, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up to them, touched them and said,

Jesus: Stand up. Do not be afraid.

Narrator 2: When they looked up the disciples saw no one; only Jesus.

Narrator 1: After this, Jesus led Peter, James and John back down the mountain, with the clear instruction,

Jesus: Tell no one what you have seen and heard until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.

Narrator 2: The Gospel of the Lord.

Everyone: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Fundraising Ideas

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few seasonal ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/

Please ***share your fundraising events*** with us @MissioUK, adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring term

Valentines biscuits: showcase your bake-off skills! Bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around valentines day. You could even ice on the names of the recipient and deliver them anonymously for a delivery fee!

Pancake races: hold a Pancake Day event with races and flipping competitions. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!

Sponsored give something up: encourage pupils to give something up for Lent and either donate the money they save or get sponsored to do it. Alternatively, children can offer to take on extra chores or responsibilities in Lent for a donation to Mission Together.

Springtime Scavenger hunt: This is a great outdoor activity. Print off some sheets with springtime things to spot e.g. Snowdrops or crocus, tree buds, birdsong and birds nesting, cherry blossom. You can tailor the items to whatever suits your space and environment. Charge pupils to enter. Either get pupils to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

Egg hunt: hide small chocolate eggs around your school or playground. Charge pupils to join in for a massive Easter egg hunt! To maximise your fundraising, why not ask all pupils to donate some eggs so you don't need to spend money to buy them?

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents or as Easter gifts?

Lent through a Lens: Challenge pupils to capture images of springtime. Charge for entry and provide a prize for the winner(s). You could even introduce different categories e.g. wildlife, nature, people. You could even have a category for grown up competitors!

Easter bonnet competition: charge pupils to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous fashionista creations! Alternatively you could get everyone involved in egg painting or Easter cake designs, and sell them after for extra fundraising!