

Lent in a Box 2019



It's easy to assemble a "Lent in a box" (or bag or basket) at home. Craft stores have inexpensive examples of all the items below but you could substitute with small tokens from your own home or start a Lenten journal and draw a representation of each on the Sunday it is mentioned. To fill a box, you will need:

- A small bottle bag of sand
- A cross
- A leaf
- A heart
- A yellow marble or decorative glass
- A human figure (or clothespin doll)
- A shell

The container can also be used as a mite box to collect alms to donate to those in need.

How to use this resource: Choose a time each week to read the scripture passages alone or with your family and think about the questions. If you have tokens to represent the readings, you can place these symbols on a table or windowsill, or you can carry one in your pocket as you meditate on the reading. Some of the readings can be found in [The Children's Illustrated Bible](#); the page numbers for those readings are included.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday (March 6 this year) and lasts for 40 days (not including the Sundays).

For **Sunday, March 10** (and the week following)

Read Luke 4: 1-13 (represented by sand) or read “The Temptations in the Wilderness” on page 204 in The Children’s Illustrated Bible.

After his Baptism, Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray and prepare for his ministry of teaching and healing. The desert can be a strange and scary place. Where is the desert in your life right now – the places where you are worried or unsure. Do you find temptations there? What can you learn in your desert? Let the sand represent the desert in your life and remind you there are things to learn there. Even in dry sand, there is a chance to grow.

For **Sunday, March 17** (and the week following)

Read Luke 13: 31-35 (represented by a cross).

Jesus turns towards Jerusalem, towards the cross that awaits him outside the city. He tells the people they won’t really see him until he is gone. When have you missed seeing Jesus, even though he was right there? Let the cross remind you that Jesus is with you all the time, even when you don’t recognize him.

For **Sunday, March 24** (and the week following)

Read Luke 13: 1-9 (represented by a fig leaf).

Jesus used parables to try to explain things that were very hard to understand. It’s okay to struggle with a difficult parable or problem. What are you struggling with now? Where in your life do you need more time to grow? Let the fig leaf represent the problems that are difficult for you.

For **Sunday, March 31** (and the week following)

Read Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (represented by a heart) or read “The Prodigal Son” on page 240 of The Children’s Illustrated Bible.

This week, Jesus offers us another parable to explain the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness even when they don’t seem “fair” or easy. Have you ever experienced forgiveness you didn’t “deserve”? What did it feel like? Hold the heart and pray; is there someone you can forgive this week?

For **Sunday, April 7** (and the week following)

Read John 12: 1-18 (a gold drop of glass “perfumed oil”) or read “Jesus Plots to Betray Jesus,” page 260 of The Children’s Illustrated Bible.

Six days before Passover, Jesus visited Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus. Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with an expensive perfumed oil, which honored Jesus as a special guest but also foreshadows, for us, what is to come. Perfumed oil was used to anoint bodies before burial. We know the next part of the story – the part we’ll hear on Good Friday - is very sad. But it’s not the end of the story. When you hold the gold glass, think of the perfumed oil that Mary rubbed on Jesus’ feet. Think of the love and hope you have felt in sad times.

Sunday, April 14
(Palm Sunday and Holy Week)

Read Luke 22:14-23:56 (represented by a human figure) or read "Jesus Enters Jerusalem," on page 256 of The Children's Illustrated Bible and "The Last Supper," on page 264.

On Palm Sunday, we hear the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Though he rode a donkey, many people recognized him as a new kind of king and waved palms. The Pharisees were alarmed. They did not like to think that Jesus had come to Jerusalem in the name of the Lord.

Not many days later, Jesus broke bread with his disciples at the Last Supper. "When he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

The next day, Jesus was betrayed by his friend Judas, arrested, taunted and ultimately condemned to death by the Roman official Pontius Pilate. Jesus is God but he was also fully human. As he picked up his cross and carried it to Golgotha, where he would die, he felt thirst, exhaustion, pain and grief.

Let the figure of a man remind you that Jesus was both God and human. He knows human pain and understands human sadness. The story of Jesus' last week is a hard story to hear. Why do you think we tell it?

Sunday, April 21 (Easter)
(A shell)

We began our Lenten journey with Jesus' baptism. When we arrive at Easter six weeks later, we celebrate with baptisms in our own church. Each time we welcome new Christians, we affirm our own baptisms with the words in the Book of Common Prayer. Read the Baptismal Covenant on pages 304-305 of the Book of Common Prayer. Remember the covenant that God made with Abraham. Now it's our turn to make a promise. With God's help, we will continue in the Apostle's teaching, resist evil, repent when we fall into sin, proclaim the Good News, seek and serve Christ in all people, and strive for Justice and Peace. Let the shell represent baptism and the promise you make to live the Baptismal Covenant each day.