This book belongs to: _____________________________

Lent 2019

Week 4
Dear Parents,

Each week an instalment of our Lenten family devotional will be available in 3 ways:

• A booklet will be handed to children as they leave Sunday school each week,

• You can download a PDF version embedded in the Sunday "Read It, Teach It, Live It" emails or

• Find a link on the FPC website on the Children’s Resource page: firstchurchtulsa.org.

These devotions are designed to be used by the parent and child together. There is a Bible verse, a thought and a prayer given for each day.

Our prayer is that this booklet would cause/launch faith conversations to happen between parent and child. We want children to understand not only the importance of what Jesus did on the cross, but how that impacts them today and in the choices they make on life’s path.

Choose a time of day, whether it be breakfast, dinner or before bed, to sit where your eyes can meet and discuss the 40 days we celebrate as Christians....the most important 40 days in the Christian calendar.

As we take this journey together please let us know ways we can support and assist you in discipling your family.

Your Partners in the Journey,

The Children’s Ministry Team
of First Church Tulsa
History of Lent

The season of Lent leads up to the most holy of Christian days, Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent begin Ash Wednesday and end at dusk the Saturday before Easter, not counting the Sundays in between. The Sundays during Lent, like every Sunday, are considered weekly celebrations of the resurrection. Many denominations encourage disciples to renew and strengthen their faith during Lent. Plans are made for community-wide Lenten preparation through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and service.

This preparation is a historical model from the early church. New believers were mentored in the Christian faith weeks before Easter, preparing for their baptisms at the Great Easter Vigil. The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of this tradition, when fasting—abstaining from food as an act of discipline in solidarity with others in the community... Fasting or giving up something for Lent can be a good way to explore a deeper expression of faith. [Fasting is not meant to be an outward sign for others or a way to seem more holy. My removing things that are important to us it helps us remember how much we should be relying on God] Presbyterians may find it meaningful to give something up for Lent, but it is not required. Some disciples may find a more valuable spiritual exercise in taking something on during Lent—a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity. Whatever spiritual disciplines and preparations are embraced during Lent, they can help us prepare for or renew our baptisms as part of the resurrection celebration at Easter.

From: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/curriculum/lenten-practices-101/
Write or draw a picture about what God is teaching you:
This week I'm praying for:

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Week 4 of Lent

The Kingdom of God

Learning to think like a citizen of God’s Kingdom
Sunday

Scripture: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”
Psalm 32:8

Thought: Jesus talks about really deep and important things in the Bible and it is easy to feel like we don’t understand but he is a patient teacher and shows us what we need to know.

Prayer: Jesus thank you for teaching me and helping me understand your ways. Help me turn to you when I am confused. Amen.

Monday

Scripture: “But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’” Luke 18:16-17

Thought: Jesus loves children! You are a great example of joy and trusting Jesus with your whole heart to the adults around you. Sometimes this gets harder as we get older. No one is ever too young or too old to be loved by Jesus and welcomed into his family. We can always learn from each other.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for loving me and welcoming me into your family. Help me be a great example to everyone I meet. Amen.
Tuesday

Scripture: “From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’” Matthew 4:17

Thought: Because Jesus came to earth, he brought the kingdom of God to earth. He knew what was about to happen and he wanted people to be ready too. To repent means not only saying you’re sorry, but turning away from things that don’t line up with God’s will.

Prayer: Jesus thank you for bring the kingdom of God to me and making a way for me to be part of God’s family. Help me see when I am choosing my own path instead of yours and be quick to repent. Amen.

Wednesday

Scripture: “He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’” Matthew 13:31

Thought: All it takes to plant the kingdom of God in our hearts is to tell Jesus we need him and want him in control of our life. This might feel like a small act at first, but as it grows, it becomes the most important thing and something others see and want in their life too!

Prayer: Dear God, please plant the seed of your kingdom in my heart. Help it to grow and take over every part of my life. Amen.
Thursday

**Scripture:** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.” Matthew 13:45-46

**Thought:** When we see the value of being a citizen of God’s Kingdom, everything else becomes less important. We start to see things and people the way God sees them. The things we own and want don’t seem quite as necessary and we start looking for ways to show others God’s love too!

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for making it possible for us to be citizen in God’s kingdom. Help us see people and things the way you do! Amen.

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Friday

**Scripture:** “Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” Matthew 11:11

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” Matthew 20:16

**Thought:** Here Jesus goes again saying something that doesn’t match how we usually think, but he is right. It is easy for us to want to be number 1 and the best at something, but Jesus is saying that it is far greater to be part of God’s Kingdom, then the greatest in the eyes of the world. Jesus is
Activity Idea

Stained Glass Crosses

Supplies:
- Tissue paper – variety of colors
- Wax paper
- White glue
- Popsicle stick
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Cross template (Download from Children’s Resources page or just draw your own)

Instructions:

1. Find a helper to tear tissue paper into small pieces.
2. Roll out a piece of wax paper that is double the width of the template.
3. Spread glue onto half of the wax paper using a popsicle stick.
4. Piece by piece add the tissue paper until all the glue is covered.
5. Spread glue onto the other half of the wax paper and fold over on top of the tissue.
6. Smooth the paper and let dry. I like to put something heavy on top so it dries nice and flat.
7. Print out the template and cut out the crosses. I used a craft knife.
8. Turn the paper over and glue it to the wax paper. Let dry.
9. Cut out around the crosses and tape to a well-lit window
10. Enjoy!

Churches in the Medieval times used stained glass windows to help teach people the stories that are in the Bible, because most of them couldn’t read. They are still a great teaching tool and visual reminder of God’s faithfulness.

Just like stained glass windows show all their beautiful colors when the light shines through, our lives tell a beautiful story of God’s grace when we are filled with the light of Jesus Christ.

From: http://www.momontimeout.com/2012/03/stained-glass-cross-easter-craft/
These could make a great gift to give a friend or neighbor!
The Children’s Ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa...

Where our mission is to encourage children and their families to trust and know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and grow in faith; connect with others in FPC’s Christ-centered community; learn to serve Christ at home, school and the neighborhood.

Bring your family, friends & neighbors

Spring Festival

SATURDAY
APRIL 13
First Church Courtyard

FREE Egg Hunt for Children up to 3rd Grade Starts Promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Easter Story, Craft & Treats

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