

For God So **LOVED**

FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

How to Use the Lent 2019 Family Worship Activities

The **Family Worship Activities** are intended to be used during a family worship experience—where all ages are worshiping together.

Each service has three Family Worship Activities to choose from. Prepare one packet of supplies for each child. Pass out the packets before the service. A Bible is also needed during each service.

You can post the instructions for each activity on a screen during the service. Or, if you'd prefer, you can print out the instructions and include one in each packet.

Some of these activities will require a flat surface or table for children to work on. You could also provide a clipboard or sturdy piece of cardboard for children to use when writing or drawing. Do whatever works for your context.

These activities can also be used in conjunction with the **Children's Teaching Outlines**. Send home the **Family Take-Home Activities** and **Scripture Art Journal** as well.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

MARCH 10, 2019

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:3, 6:13, 6:16, 8:3; Luke 4:1-13

Option 1: A Tiny Taste of Temptation

Supplies Needed:

- One small treat per child (i.e., a marshmallow or a piece of chocolate) plus additional treats for after the service if desired

Place a treat in each child's family worship supplies with an explanation of the following instructions:

Today, we're talking together about temptation. Temptation is being attracted by something that might not be good. After Jesus was baptized, he was tempted by Satan in three big ways. So Jesus knows exactly what temptation is like. You might feel tempted to eat your treat or take just a tiny nibble, but don't give into the temptation. Instead, bring your treat to [designated adult] after the service to show that you, like Jesus, resisted temptation.

After the service, the designated adult may choose to let the kids eat their treats, trade one marshmallow for two, or upgrade the treat to something a little bit bigger or more special like a cookie.

Ask:

- *What does it feel like to be tempted?*
- *How would it feel to be tempted by this treat if you had not had anything to eat for 40 days?*
- *Why do you think Jesus was tempted?*

Option 2: A Picture of Temptation

Supplies Needed:

- White paper
- Coloring supplies

Fold your paper into thirds. In each section, draw a picture of one of the ways Jesus was tempted (with bread, with power and authority, and with the ability to do something spectacular).

Ask:

- *Which temptation do you think was the most challenging for Jesus?*
- *Which do you think would be the most challenging for you? Why?*

Option 3: Find Jesus's Answers

Supplies Needed:

- Whiteboard and dry erase markers OR paper and coloring supplies

Jesus's answers to Satan are direct quotes from the book of Deuteronomy in the Old Testament. The message is pretty much summed up in **Deuteronomy 6:3**. Find Deuteronomy 6:3 in a Bible. (*Hint: Deuteronomy is the 5th book of the Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.*) Ask an adult if you need help. Write down the verse on your paper or whiteboard. Decorate it and use fancy letters if you'd like. If you're up for an additional challenge, find all of Jesus's responses to Satan in **Deuteronomy 6:13**, **Deuteronomy 6:16**, and **Deuteronomy 8:3**.

Ask:

- *Why do you think Jesus quoted scripture as his answers?*
- *What does Deuteronomy 6:3 say to us today?*

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

MARCH 17, 2019

Scripture: Psalm 27; Luke 13:31, 35

Option 1: Paper Plate Clock

Supplies Needed:

- Paper plate
- Brad paper fastener
- Construction paper to make clock hands
- Scissors
- Markers

Read **Psalm 27**. Use the supplies to make a clock. Label the numbers on the paper plate. Cut out clock hands and attach them to the clock so they can move around. Use your markers to write **Psalm 27:14** on the clock face. "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."

Note: It may be helpful for participants if the numbers on the clock are already labeled and the clock hands are pre-cut.

Ask:

- *What does it mean to wait for the Lord?*
- *What makes waiting difficult?*
- *Can we trust God to show us his goodness like we read in **Psalm 27:13**?*

Option 2: The House of the Lord

Supplies Needed:

- Play-doh, foam blocks, or other building supplies

Use your building supplies to build a "house of the Lord" or a temple. Now, make a desolate or crumbling house.

Ask:

- *What does it mean to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of your life and to seek the Lord in the Lord's temple (Psalm 27:4)?*
- *What does Jesus mean in **Luke 13:35** when he says "Your house is left to you desolate"?*

Option 3: The Light and the Stronghold

Supplies Needed:

- Whiteboard and dry erase markers OR paper and coloring supplies

Draw a picture of the images that come to mind when you read **Psalm 27:1**: “The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” Share your pictures with others sitting around you.

Ask:

- *How do we know God can handle the things we are afraid of?*
- *What did it mean for Jesus to trust the words of **Psalm 27:1** in the face of threats like we find in **Luke 13:31**?*

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

MARCH 24, 2019

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9

Option 1: Fruitless Tree

Supplies Needed:

- Pipe cleaners
- Small portions of play-doh (optional)
- Small pieces of green tissue paper (optional)

Use your pipe cleaners to make a fruitless fig tree. If you'd like, stick the bottom in a little bit of play-doh so it will stand up. Crumple up a few small pieces of tissue paper and put them on your branches to represent a few leaves on the tree.

Ask:

- *Why did Jesus use the story of a fig tree that never had any figs as a reminder that the people needed to repent and change?*
- *What does it mean to repent?*

Option 2: When Tragedy Strikes

Supplies Needed:

- Whiteboard and dry erase marker

Draw a picture of a tragedy, like a natural disaster or something that you've heard about in the news or in your community. Jesus makes it clear that those people didn't suffer because of their sin, but that everyone needs to repent.

Ask:

- *Why do you think bad things like natural disasters sometimes happen?*
- *Why does Jesus say everyone needs to repent?*

Option 3: Popsicle Stick Person

Supplies Needed:

- Popsicle stick
- Markers
- 4" x 6" notecard

- Scissors

Before the Service: Fold the notecard in half. Cut a 2-inch slit on the middle portion of the fold, perpendicular to the fold. (When the paper is unfolded, there will be a 4-inch slit.)

During the Service: On one side of the popsicle stick, draw a sad face looking towards the right. On the other side of the stick, draw a happy face looking towards the left.

Unfold the notecard or paper. On the right side of your paper, draw something that represents sin. On the left side, draw a picture that illustrates Jesus's way of living. Insert your popsicle stick into the slit. Make it so your popsicle person is showing their sad face and is faced towards sin. Move your popsicle person towards sin. Then, flip your popsicle stick over so the happy face is showing and slide it along the slit so it looks like it's walking towards Jesus's way of living.

Ask:

- *Repentance is turning from sin and turning towards God. It's feeling sorry for sin, asking for forgiveness, and deciding to live for God. How is repentance more than just saying, "I'm sorry"?*
- *Is there anything that you need to repent for?*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

MARCH 31, 2019

Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Option 1: Map the Journey

Supplies Needed:

- Whiteboard and dry erase makers

Draw a map of the younger son's journey—leaving home, moving to the city, working for a sheep farmer, and finally returning home.

Ask:

- *What were some of the hard lessons that the son learned on his journey?*
- *What did the son learn by the time he came back home?*

Option 2: Toilet Paper Roll Binoculars

Supplies Needed:

- Two toilet paper rolls per child (pre-taped or stapled together to make binoculars)
- Markers, stickers, washi tape, or other items to decorate the binoculars

Decorate your binoculars. Then, look through them. Make some observations and watch the events that you see through them. Imagine the father watching for his son day after day.

Ask:

- *What do you think the father thought about as he waited for his son?*
- *What do you think the father thought about when he saw his son approaching?*
- *How is God like the father watching for us (and all of the broken, hurting people in the world) day after day and welcoming us home with relentless love?*

Option 3: The Older Son

Supplies Needed:

- Paper plate
- Markers
- Tape
- Popsicle stick

Think carefully about the type of expression you think the older son had on his face when his brother returned and during the party. On the paper plate, draw the older son's face. Use tape to attach the popsicle stick to the back of the plate. Hold the plate up like a mask. Then, move it to the side to show an expression on your face that was like the father in this story.

Ask:

- *What is the difference between the father and the older son in this parable?*
- *How are we as people in the church sometimes like the older son?*
- *How is Jesus calling us to respond when people (even people who have done really hurtful things) accept Jesus's love and forgiveness?*

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

APRIL 7, 2019

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Option 1: Smell the Perfume

Supplies Needed:

- Small resealable plastic bags
- Cotton balls
- Essential oil, perfume, or almond or vanilla extract (**Note:** Be aware that some people are sensitive to artificial scents, and plan accordingly.)

Before the Service: Pour a few drops of your chosen scent onto a cotton ball and put it in a small resealable plastic bag.

During the Service: Take your cotton ball out of the bag and breathe deeply. Think about the smell. Imagine you're in the room where a whole jar of perfume has just been poured on Jesus's feet.

Ask:

- *Why did Mary pour the perfume on Jesus's feet?*
- *Why was it such a special thing for her to do?*
- *How do you think the others in the room reacted?*

Option 2: Pipe Cleaner Glasses

Supplies Needed:

- Pipe Cleaners

Use your pipe cleaners to make a pair of reading glasses. Pretend they help you focus on what's going on. Try focusing on one thing for a while. Pay attention to what you notice. Mary was focused on one thing—Jesus.

Ask:

- *How can we focus on Jesus as the most important thing in our lives like Mary did?*
- *What is distracting us from Jesus?*
- *What might Jesus want us to give up so we can focus more fully on him?*

Option 3: A Note of Gratitude

Supplies Needed:

- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Mary understood something very special about who Jesus is, and she wanted to show her gratitude and devotion. Write a note to Jesus (or draw a picture) expressing your gratitude to him—not for things he has given you, but for who he is to you.

Ask:

- *Who is Jesus to you?*
- *What makes Jesus special to you?*

PALM SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

APRIL 14, 2019

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

Option 1: Humble King

Supplies Needed:

- Whiteboard and dry erase markers

Draw a line down the middle of your whiteboard. On one side, draw a flashy king, riding a big horse and holding a sword in his hand. On the other side, draw Jesus sitting on a lowly little donkey with the power to heal in his hands.

Ask:

- *What do you think the biggest differences are between these two pictures?*
- *What did the people want Jesus to do?*
- *What was Jesus actually going to do?*
- *Why were the people confused about what Jesus's intentions and purpose were?*

Option 2: The Rocks Will Cry Out

Supplies Needed:

- Smooth stones for decorating
- Paint supplies (paint, brushes, water, etc.)
- Stickers or decals
- Paper towels

The Pharisees in the crowd wanted Jesus to stop the people from shouting their praises, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" But Jesus tells them, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out!" Decorate your rocks as a reminder to praise Jesus, remembering that the stones will cry out in praise if people do not.

Ask:

- *Why does Jesus deserve our praise?*
- *What can help you remember to give Jesus praise?*

***Note:** If you are not comfortable using paint in your worship service space, markers or stickers can work well for this activity.

Option 3: Compose a Song

Supplies Needed:

- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Think about the words of praise that you have for Jesus. One way we voice our praise for Jesus is by singing. Write your own song of praise for Jesus. It can be to a familiar tune or one you make up.

Ask:

- *What words of praise do you have for Jesus?*
- *What songs of praise do you sing at church that you like? Why?*

EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

APRIL 21, 2019

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25; John 20:1-18

Option 1: See More Clearly

Supplies Needed:

- Bible
- Inexpensive plastic magnifying glass (can be purchased at a dollar store, a craft store, or online)

Use your magnifying glass to help you look more closely at the things around you (your skin, the fabric of your chair, the hair of the person sitting next to you, etc.). Make note of the things you didn't notice before. Then, carefully listen to or read the scripture passage, **John 20:1-18**.

Ask:

- *What do you see or hear that you've never noticed before?*
- *In what ways can we investigate for ourselves and see the risen Savior?*
- *How have you seen the risen Jesus in your own life?*

Option 2: Empty Tomb

Supplies Needed:

- Paper cup
- Marker
- Scissors
- Small square of white fabric

Turn your paper cup upside down. Color it like a hillside or tomb. Cut a semi-circle opening to represent the opening in the tomb. Leave the "door" or "stone" partially attached if you would like to be able to open and close it. Fold your white fabric and set it under your cup. Use your magnifying glass to look inside the tomb.

Ask:

- *How do you think the disciples and Mary felt when they found the tomb empty?*
- *How would you have felt?*
- *What do you think changed when Jesus said Mary's name?*

Option 3: All Things Right

Supplies Needed:

- Bible
- Whiteboard and dry erase markers OR paper and coloring supplies

Find **Isaiah 65:17-25** in a Bible and read the passage of scripture. Ask an adult to help you if you need it. Pay careful attention to the images that are used to describe the new heaven and the new earth as you read the passage. Then, draw your own picture of the new heaven and the new earth where everything is right in the world.

Ask:

- *The new heaven and the new earth began breaking in with Jesus. How do you see it breaking in to your world?*
- *What pieces of your picture are you already catching glimpses of?*