



vibrant**faith**

+ Generations Together

## Lent

Here is a cross-generational session for all members of the congregation exploring the purpose and meaning of Lent, and its importance for our anticipation of Holy Week and Easter. This session is designed to be conducted in about 90 minutes, and can be adapted for a shorter or longer timeframe.

### Introduction

This session works well just prior to, or during the first week or two of Lent. It is designed to help people of all ages understand what Lent is and what to do during Lent. There are a variety ways to journey in a meaningful fashion. Let's take some time to examine more fully the background and meaning of Lent and how it can enrich your life.

### I. Gather

To begin the session use the following adaptation of the activity Coloring Lent

#### Prepare in Advance:

- YouTube clip of Michael W. Smith singing *Open the Eyes of My Heart* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnqb7Vn4AEE>).
- Have a variety coloring pages available (at least two per person). For coloring pages, check out: <https://ministry-to-children.com/bible-coloring-pages/>
- Crayons . . . several for each person.
- Have Bible open to Psalm 119:9-16
- Handouts: give the appropriate handout ("For Children," "For Teens," or "For Adults") to each person

#### Activity Plan

1. Gather all participants into one large group. Begin the session by showing the YouTube clip of Michael W. Smith singing *Open the Eyes of My Heart* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnqb7Vn4AEE>). Encourage everyone to sing along. After the music video, say aloud the following prayer:

*Creator God, thank you for giving us this time together. We know in our busy lives it's hard to take time to just "be" and just "be" together as a family. We also thank you for the season of Lent. A time that helps us get back to the heart of who we are. Help us to be present to you and to each other during our time together. Amen.*

2. Invite participants to form family groups or small groups of 4-5 persons. Say this prayer aloud to begin.
3. Give each participant a selection of pages to color. Explain that coloring helps us return to a simpler time and can also be a nice way to get our mind off of other things.
4. Invite family/small group members to share about their Lenten experiences in the past or thus far this season. What has been challenging? What has been rewarding? Has anything surprised you about your experience?
5. Read Psalm 119:9-16. Although this reading specifies “young people” we know we can easily substitute it with “all people.”
6. Pass out the handout: “*What are my struggles?*” and “*How can my family support me?*” to each family member. Explain that getting in touch with our struggles or our “deserts” helps us to be self-aware and to find the support we need to work through them. Family members do not need to show their list to anyone, but will be invited to share one struggle with the group as well as one way the family can be supportive.
7. After a few minutes, invite participants to share in their family/small group one or two items from their list. How can we as family members help to better support each other in our struggles? How can my faith help me?

## II. Grow

During this part of the session, participants will learn about Lent by viewing an informative video and then playing a quiz game that tests their knowledge. What follows is an adaptation of the activity called The Meaning of Lent

### Prepare in Advance:

- Video #1: Ash Wednesday and Lent in Three minutes: <https://bustedhalo.com/video/watch-lent-3-minutes>
- Video #2: What is Lent (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv5jxQ4YAPg>)
- Bibles, one for each group
- Copies of *Wait! Wait! Don't Tell Me! About Lent* Quiz one for each group
- Copy of Answer Guide
- A “prize” for the winners of the quiz (optional)

### Activity Plan

1. Ask participants to form family groups or small groups of 4-5 persons. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

Loving God, we gather today to learn more about the season of Lent. Open our minds and hearts to the wisdom of this special time to pray, fast, and serve in a more intentional way. Help us to remember your ways and how you emptied yourself to give us the greatest gift: new life. Amen.

2. Show Video #1: Ash Wednesday and Lent in Three Minutes: <https://bustedhalo.com/video/watch-lent-3-minutes>. Explain that this video is primarily for adults and youth, and that the children’s video will follow immediately.
3. Show Video #2: What is Lent (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv5jxQ4YAPg>). Even though this one is for the children, ask everyone to pay close attention for it will help them with the quiz competition to follow. Like the first video, this one is only 2 minutes long.

4. Ask participants to discuss their reactions to the videos in their family/small groups, using these questions.
  - Was the information new?
  - Adults, what has been your experience of Lent? Take time to share any meaningful experiences you've had whether at church or in your own personal commitments.
  - Teens and children are also welcomed to share any of their experiences.
5. Explain that you will now have a Lenten Knowledge Face Off. Each group will have 5 minutes to complete the quiz: *Wait! Wait! Don't Tell Me! About Lent*. The most knowledgeable group will win the prize...(to be determined by YOU in advance). Ready, set, go!
6. After 5 minutes, reconvene and go through the answer guide, inviting discussion as you go.
7. Ask one person from each group to read aloud from their Bible, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. And then brainstorm and discuss possible Lenten practices that each person can commit to. Children may need some assistance and prompting.

### III. Go Forth

To conclude the session use the following activity Lenten Candles. Depending upon which week of Lent you are having your gathering, extinguish the appropriate number of candles and choose the appropriate Scripture reading. If your gathering occurs just prior to the beginning of Lent, extinguish just one candle and use the reading for the first week of Lent.

#### Prepare in Advance

- Needed: Bible, six purple candles, one large white candle, matches or lighter, candle snuffer (optional)
- Arrange six purple candles in a circle. Place the white candle in the center of the circle.
- Copies of the activity Lenten Candles to send home with participants. One for each household.

#### Activity Plan

Gather all participants into one large group. Light all six purple candles and the white candle.

##### 1. Pray Together

*Holy God, as we mark the days before Jesus' resurrection, help us to recall the path he walked to his crucifixion and death. Send your Spirit to guide our hearts in devotion and prayer. Amen.*

##### 2. Proclaim

Have someone read aloud the designated passage for the week of Lent that your gathering is taking place.

<i>Week 1</i> Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem	Luke 19:29-40
<i>Week 2</i> Last Supper	Luke 22:7-23
<i>Week 3</i> Prayer in the Garden	Luke 22:39-46
<i>Week 4</i> Betrayal and Arrest	Luke 22:47-53
<i>Week 5</i> The Trial	Luke 23:13-24
<i>Week 6</i> Crucifixion and Burial	Luke 23:32-46, 50-53
<i>Easter</i> Christ Is Risen!	Luke 24:1-12

##### 3. Extinguish

In silence, extinguish one purple candle for each week. Leave the white candle burning. (For example, on Week 4 you will extinguish four purple candles.) On Easter, take all the purple candles off the table after you extinguish them and leave the white candle burning.

#### 4. Reflect and Discuss

In family/small groups share your responses to these questions:

- What was happening to Jesus in this Bible passage?
- What might God be saying to us through this Word?

#### 5. Pray Together

*Blessed Jesus, we give thanks for your joys and your sufferings on the journey to the cross.  
Thank you, O Christ, for your obedience and strength to God's will. We pray in your holy name.  
Let everyone say: Amen.*

#### 6. Take home

Give each household a copy of activity Lenten Candles and encourage them to do this simple prayer activity each week during Lent.

# Coloring Lent

by Stacia McDermott



As we near the end of Lent, this is a good time to talk about what we have found helpful and challenging in our Lenten promises. Spend time coloring as a family while also sharing about your recent struggles and triumphs.

## For

Teen Families

## Season

Spring / Lent

## Needed

Coloring pages, Crayons, Bible, Handouts, Computer for YouTube video

## Prepare in advance

- Have a variety coloring pages available (at least two per person)
- Have Bible open to Psalm 119:9-16
- Handouts: give the appropriate handout (teen or adult) to each person
- YouTube video ready: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XlmcDtrLWQ>

## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*Creator God, thank you for giving us this time together. We know in our busy lives it's hard to take time to just "be" and just "be" together as a family. We also thank you for the season of Lent. A time that helps us get back to the heart of who we are. Help us to be present to you and to each other during our time together. Amen.*

2. Give each family member a selection of pages to color. Explain that coloring helps us return to a simpler time and can also be a nice way to get our mind off of other things.
3. Invite family members to share about their Lenten experiences thus far. What has been challenging? What has been rewarding? Has anything surprised you about your experience?
4. Read Psalm 119:9-16. Although this reading specifies "young people" we know we can easily substitute it with "all people."
5. Pass out the handout: "What are my struggles?" and "How can my family support me?" to each family member. Explain that getting in touch with our struggles or our "deserts" helps us to be self-aware and to find the support we need to work through them. Family members do not need to show

their list to anyone, but will be invited to share one struggle with the group as well as one way the family can be supportive.

6. After a few minutes, invite members to share one or two items from their list. How can we as family members help to better support each other in our struggles? How can my faith help me?
7. Watch the YouTube video of Tenth Avenue North's song, *Satisfy Me* as a closing prayer.

### **Additional Ideas**

Use the handout for future conversations to help family members get in touch with their thoughts and feelings.

## For Children

### My Current Struggles

School work \_\_\_      Worry about stuff \_\_\_      My Family \_\_\_      Friends \_\_\_  
Sports \_\_\_      Peer pressure \_\_\_      My Faith \_\_\_      School activity \_\_\_  
My Brother \_\_\_      My Sister \_\_\_      My Toys and Things \_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### How can my family support me?

Prayers \_\_\_      Help with Homework \_\_\_      Making time for me \_\_\_  
Not minimizing problems \_\_\_      Trying to understand me better \_\_\_      Listening more \_\_\_  
Attend activities \_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## For Teens

### My Current Struggles

School work ___	Anxiety ___	Family life ___	Insecurity ___
Friends ___	Depression ___	Sports ___	College plan ___
Drinking pressure ___	Self- image ___	Healthy Eating ___	Future ___
Sex pressure ___	Faith ___	School activity ___	Drugs ___
Teacher/Coach ___	Sibling ___	Overwhelmed ___	Pregnancy ___
Sexuality ___	Health ___	Job:___	Other: _____

### How can my family support me?

Prayers ___	Less pressure ___	Finding counseling ___
Homework ___	Accepting ___	Family church attendance___
Making time for me ___	Not minimizing problems ___	Trying to understand me better ___
Listening more ___	Less restrictions ___	Attend activities ___
Other: _____		



## For Adults

### My Current Struggles

Job/work ___	Child relationship ___	Stress ___	Financial concerns ___
Faith ___	Spouse relationship ___	Healthy Eating ___	Exercise ___
Overwhelmed ___	Depression ___	Anxiety ___	Substance abuse ___
Extended family ___	Boss/co-worker ___	Friends ___	Hobby ___
Health ___	Self-Image ___	Sex ___	Other: _____

### How can my family support me?

Prayers ___	Help with housework ___	More family time ___
Follow through ___	Work support ___	Counseling ___
Listening ___	Saying thank you ___	Family meals ___
Better communication ___	Family church attendance ___	Understanding ___
Other: _____		

# The Meaning of Lent



As Christians, we participate in the season of Lent in varying ways. Let's take some time to examine more fully the background and meaning of Lent and how it can enrich your life.

## For

Families with Adolescents

## Season

Spring/Lent

## Needed

Computer for two YouTube clips, Bible, Quiz + Answer Sheet (see below), Pens, Paper

## Prepare in Advance

- YouTube clip ready: : <https://bustedhalo.com/video/watch-lent-3-minutes>
- Open Bible to Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- Copies of Quiz
- Copy of Answer Guide
- A "prize" for the winners of the quiz (optional)

Have marked second YouTube clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnqb7Vn4AEE>

## Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

Loving God, we gather today to learn more about the season of Lent. Open our minds and hearts to the wisdom of this special time to pray, fast, and serve in a more intentional way. Help us to remember your ways and how you emptied yourself to give us the greatest gift: new life. Amen.

2. Start your time together by viewing the YouTube video that gives a basic background of Lent.
3. Take a few minutes to chat about your reactions to the video.
  - Was the information new?
  - Adults, what has been your experience of Lent? Take time to share any meaningful experiences you've had whether at church or in your own personal commitments.
  - Teens are also welcomed to share any of their experiences.

4. Form two groups, preferably with an adult in each group. Explain that you will now have a Lenten Knowledge Face Off. Each group will have 5 minutes to complete the quiz: *Wait! Wait! Don't Tell Me! About Lent*. The most knowledgeable group will win...(to be determined in advance). Ready, set, go!
5. After 5 minutes, reconvene and take turns going through the answer guide, inviting discussion as you go.
6. Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Follow the reading with a few moments of quiet reflection/writing to brainstorm some personal Lenten practices.
7. Close by listening/watching the YouTube clip of Michael W. Smith singing *Open the Eyes of My Heart*. (Since this video is rather long, feel free to end the song early).

### Activity Plan

- Adults challenge yourself to not look at the answer sheet so you can fully participate in the “quiz.”
- Have the “winners” decide on a family practice for Lent
- Begin this family time with a simple meal to kick off your Lenten practices.
- Invite family members to share their Lenten practices and take time weekly to check in with each other.

## Wait! Wait! Don't Tell Me!

### About Lent

1. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencton* meaning?
  - a. Desert
  - b. Forty
  - c. Spring
  - d. Lectionary
2. Lent officially begins with...
  - a. Ash Wednesday
  - b. Easter Sunday
  - c. Mardi Gras
  - d. Holy Thursday
3. Lent is often characterized by a time of intentional prayer, fasting, and...
  - a. Isolation
  - b. Service
  - c. Resting
  - d. Chastity
4. Lent lasts...
  - a. 40 hours
  - b. 30 days
  - c. 40 days
  - d. A fortnight
5. Where do the ashes come from that are used on Ash Wednesday?
  - a. Jerusalem
  - b. The palms from last year
  - c. A fireplace
  - d. Burnt sacrifices
6. A common Lenten practice is to...
  - a. Give something up
  - b. Start a practice to better yourself
  - c. Do acts of service
  - d. All of the above
7. The Catholic Church invites its members to abstain from \_\_\_\_\_ on Fridays in Lent.
  - a. Meat
  - b. Work
  - c. Alcohol
  - d. Eating out

8. The three holiest times of the year for Christians are Holy Thursday, Good Friday and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Easter Vigil
  - Christmas
  - New Years
  - Easter night
9. What colors are typically used in churches during the season of Lent?
- Blue and white
  - Yellow and black
  - Red and orange
  - Purple and pink
10. Lent can be seen as a call to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Conversion
  - Sacrifice
  - Church
  - Family

\*Bonus Question!!!

11. Lent as a season developed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century from three merging sources. The first was from the ancient paschal two day fast that was observed before Easter. The second was part of an intense period of preparation for those who were coming into the church at Easter. The third called \_\_\_\_\_ to preparation because the new members were being received into a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Children, family
  - The entire community, living community of faith
  - Those separated from the church, a faith community
  - Answers b & c.

## Answer Guide

1. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencton* meaning?
  - a. Desert
  - b. Forty
  - c. **Spring**
  - d. Lectionary

*The word Lent can also be translated from the Latin word *quadagesima* meaning “forty days.”*

2. Lent officially begins with...
  - a. **Ash Wednesday**
  - b. Easter Sunday
  - c. Mardi Gras
  - d. Holy Thursday

*The Ash Wednesday service is one of the more highly attended church services where people are marked with ashes on their forehead representing repentance and a reminder of our mortality.*

3. Lent is often characterized by a time of intentional prayer, fasting, and...
  - a. Isolation
  - b. **Service**
  - c. Resting
  - d. Chastity

*One of the three traditional pillars of Lent, service or almsgiving is essential practice of our Christian life, calling us to acts of charity and justice.*

4. Lent lasts...
  - a. 40 hours
  - b. 30 days
  - c. **40 days**
  - d. A fortnight

*40 days coincides with Jesus' forty days in the desert where he spent time preparing for his ministry and experiencing temptations. Sunday's are not counted in the 40 day's since they celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday.*

5. Where do the ashes come from that are used on Ash Wednesday?
  - a. Jerusalem
  - b. **The palms from last year**
  - c. A fireplace
  - d. Burnt sacrifices

*Palms are traditionally given out during Palm Sunday (the start of Holy Week) when Jesus' celebrated arrival in Jerusalem is recalled. The palms that were used from the previous year's celebration are burnt and used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday.*

6. A common Lenten practice is to...
  - a. Give something up
  - b. Start a practice to better yourself
  - c. Do acts of service
  - d. **All of the above**

*Often times people associate Lent with giving something up, such as candy or pop. However, people are realizing the significance of digging deeper and instituting practices that help them grow closer to God, be a better person, and live more like Jesus.*

7. The Catholic Church invites its members to abstain from \_\_\_\_\_ on Fridays in Lent.
- Meat**
  - Work
  - Alcohol
  - Eating out

*In the early church, people spent the entire forty days fasting. Gradually, the Catholic Church diminished days of fasting to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Members are also invited to give up meat on Friday's. Other churches encourage people to give up alcohol, sweets and other food luxuries regularly. Fasting not only develops self-control, but can be an aid to prayer and an experience of solidarity with those who rarely have the luxury of eating meat or eating whenever/whatever they choose.*

8. The three holiest times of the year for Christians are Holy Thursday, Good Friday and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Easter Vigil
  - Christmas
  - New Years
  - Easter night

*We experience Jesus' last supper, sentencing, crucifixion, and dying in these three most important days. Our faith as Christians is summed up in these three days by reminding us that through death and dying we can come to new life.*

9. What colors are typically used in churches during the season of Lent?
- Blue and white
  - Yellow and black
  - Red and orange
  - Purple and pink**

*The colors of purple and pink symbolize both the pain and suffering that lead up to Jesus' crucifixion and the suffering of all humanity. However, purple is also seen as the color of royalty, which reminds us that through Jesus' death and dying we are left with hope and new life.*

10. Lent can be seen as a call to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Conversion**
  - Sacrifice
  - Church
  - Family

*Although all of these answers could be true, the season of Lent truly calls us to experience conversion in our life; to be intentional about opening our heart and our life to God. The practices of fasting, prayer, and service all work towards this idea of conversion—of choosing God in all aspects of our life.*

\*Bonus Question!!!

11. Lent as a season developed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century from three merging sources. The first was from the ancient paschal two day fast that was observed before Easter. The second was part of an intense period of preparation for those who were coming into the church at Easter. The third called \_\_\_\_\_ to preparation because the new members were being received into a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Children, family
  - The entire community, living community of faith
  - Those separated from the church, a faith community
  - Answers b & c.**

# Lenten Candles

By Beth Herrinton-Hodge



Join in a weekly candle ritual during Lent to deepen the concept of waiting and preparing for Easter. This may help family members appreciate more deeply the events of the last week of Jesus' life as they prepare to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

## For

Teen family

## Season

Spring

## Needed

Bible, Lenten Candle Ritual worksheet, six purple candles in candleholders (votives are fine), one large white candle, matches or lighter, candle snuffer (optional)

## Prepare in Advance

Arrange six purple candles in a circle. Place the white candle in the center of the circle. Make a copy of the Lenten Candle Ritual worksheet for each person.

## Activity Plan

1. Each Sunday during Lent, plan to gather around the Lenten candles. Or, if you prefer, follow this candle ritual each evening during Holy Week, beginning on the Monday after Palm Sunday, reading one of the readings each day.
2. When you gather, give each person a copy of the Lenten Candle Ritual worksheet. Designate different family members to read the prayer, read the Scripture passage, and extinguish the candles.
3. Follow the instructions on the Lenten Candle Ritual worksheet each time you gather.



# Lenten Candle Ritual

As you begin, light all six purple candles and the white candle.

## 1. Gathering Prayer

*Holy God, as we mark the days before Jesus' resurrection, help us to recall the path he walked to his crucifixion and death. Send your Spirit to guide our hearts in devotion and prayer. Amen.*

## 2. Scripture Reading

Read the designated passage for each week from your Bible or use the text printed below.

<b>Week 1</b>	Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem	Luke 19:29-40
<b>Week 2</b>	Last Supper	Luke 22:7-23
<b>Week 3</b>	Prayer in the Garden	Luke 22:39-46
<b>Week 4</b>	Betrayal and Arrest	Luke 22:47-53
<b>Week 5</b>	The Trial	Luke 23:13-24
<b>Week 6</b>	Crucifixion and Burial	Luke 23:32-46, 50-53
<b>Easter</b>	Christ Is Risen!	Luke 24:1-12

## 3. Extinguish Candles

In silence, extinguish one purple candle for each week. Leave the white candle burning. (For example, on Week 4 you will extinguish four purple candles.) On Easter, take all the purple candles off the table after you extinguish them and leave the white candle burning.

## 4. Time for Reflection and Discussion

Ask: What was happening to Jesus in this Bible passage? What might God be saying to us through this Word?

## 5. Closing Prayer

For Weeks 1-6:

*Blessed Jesus, we give thanks for your joys and your sufferings on the journey to the cross.  
Thank you, O Christ, for your obedience and strength to God's will. We pray in your holy name.  
Let everyone say: Amen.*

For Easter:

*O Holy God, you triumphed over death through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Our hearts are full of joy today as we celebrate your Good News! Thank you, God! Alleluia! Let everyone say: Alleluia!*

## Bible Passages

### **Week 1      Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem      Luke 19:29-40**

<sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of it." <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

### **Week 2      Last Supper      Luke 22:7-23**

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." <sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters <sup>11</sup> and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." <sup>13</sup> And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. <sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> And he took bread, and 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." <sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. <sup>21</sup> But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. <sup>22</sup> For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" <sup>23</sup> And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

### **Week 3      Prayer in the Garden      Luke 22:39-46**

<sup>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup> And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup> And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

### **Week 4      Betrayal and Arrest      Luke 22:47-53**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" <sup>49</sup> And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. <sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him,

“Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup>When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

**Week 5      The Trial      Luke 23:13-24**

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— <sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

**Week 6      Crucifixion and Burial      Luke 23:32-46, 50-53**

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” <sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid

**Easter      Christ Is Risen!      Luke 24:1-12**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.