

Purpling Your Home

By Lee Yates



Many churches change the colors of the paraments (the cloths that are used in the worship space) to reflect the seasons of the church year. Maybe some home decorating during Lent could help you get ready for celebrating Easter.

For

Teen Family

Season

Spring / Lent

Needed

Paper and pen, purple cloth or paper (or use the color your church uses during Lent), scissors, candle, matches, purple marker



Activity Plan

1. Gather the family and open in prayer. Here are some words if you need them:

*God of all time and all places, help us remember that you are with us in this time and this space.
Amen.*

2. Work together to list all the holidays or special days when your family decorates your home. For each item on the list, discuss how a visitor would know what event you are celebrating. Take a moment for each person to tell which of these holiday decorations is most meaningful to him or her. Discuss why you decorate for special events at home.
3. Read aloud the following explanation of liturgical colors:

Liturgy means “work of the people” and refers to how a church worships. *Liturgical* is a fancy word for things that support the worship service. One part of this church tradition is the use of liturgical colors. Different colored cloths (paraments, altar cloths) are used in the sanctuary based on the season of the church year. Purple is the most common color used during Lent. The color purple symbolizes prayer (penitence) and also royalty (to honor Jesus as our King). Remember, many traditions in the church started because most early Christians could not read. Visible symbols, including the use of color, helped everyone stay connected to what was taking place in worship during that season of the year.

4. Brainstorm ideas for how you might decorate your home to reflect the season of the church year. Pick one place that could serve as a “family space.” Place a small purple cloth or paper there with a candle on it. Where else might you incorporate the color of Lent? Perhaps around wall calendars, a shelf of family pictures, a homework space, or the basket keys get placed in? You could highlight calendar days in different colors based on the church year. You can put purple paper or cloth in some places around the house to remind you of the season.
5. Think about how you might change the colors for other seasons. You can find a basic liturgical calendar online or ask at your church office.
6. After you decorate for Lent, pray:

*Lord, as we decorate our home, help us remember how we are connected with millions of Christians in other places and who lived in other times. We give thanks for being part of the body of Christ.
Amen.*

