

Introduction

Our Lenten journey together this year will take us through the seven weeks from 14 February to Easter Day on 27 March and our 'Easter encounter' with Jesus. We will hear some sad and searching stories that might make us feel like crying, as Jesus did. So each week we will make and decorate a teardrop, and create a road of tears to represent our journey to Jerusalem. On Easter Day we will transform the road of tears into flowers of joy and praise.

For each week you will need:

- teardrop shapes, one per child (see templates on page 4)
- several sheets of newspaper, folded in half long ways and stuck together, or a long sheet of paper on which is drawn a windy road. This will become a road of tears as we travel towards Jerusalem
- plenty of space on a wall/notice board to display the Lenten journey
- sticky tac to fix the teardrops onto the road; don't use glue as you will be taking the teardrops off on Easter Sunday to rearrange them into flowers
- pencils, crayons or felt tips, to draw symbols each week and/or cut-out pictures and glue sticks to decorate the teardrops.

The Lenten journey has been devised by Elaine Halls, a Methodist minister who lives in Jersey. Her creative ministry designing crafts and displays and prayer writing has emerged through the restrictions imposed by ill-health.

14 February

Lent 1

Read **Luke 4.1-13**

You will need: teardrop shapes, one per child, pencils, crayons or felt tips, scissors, sticky tac, (optional) pictures/photos of stones, sand and rocks, the figures 4 and 0 cut out of card/magazine pages, glue sticks.

- Talk together or think quietly about Jesus' experience in the wilderness when he was tempted by the devil.
- Invite the children to draw and colour stones, sand, rocks and the number '40' on their teardrops and/or stick the pictures and numbers onto them.
- Cut out the teardrops and use sticky tac to stick each one onto the road to start your Lenten journey to Jerusalem.
- Gather round the road and say this prayer together, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Lord Jesus,
I have made a teardrop
to remind me of how hard it was for you
for 40 days in the wilderness.
Amen.



21 February

Lent 2

Read **Luke 13.31-35**

You will need: teardrop shapes, one per child, pencils, crayons or felt tips, scissors, sticky tac, (optional) small pictures of a hen and her chicks, glue sticks.

- Talk together or think quietly about Jesus as he looked towards Jerusalem, wanting to gather people to him to protect them, like a mother hen.
- Invite the children to draw and colour a hen and her chicks on their teardrops and/or stick the pictures onto them.
- Cut out the teardrops and use sticky tac to stick each one onto the road to add to your Lenten journey.
- Gather around the road and say this prayer together, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Lord Jesus,
I have made a teardrop
to thank you for calling me to you,
and protecting me,
like a mother hen protects her chicks.
How sad you must be
when I don't realise you are there.
Amen.



28 February

Lent 3

Read **Luke 13.1-9**

- You will need:** teardrop shapes, one per child, pencils, crayons or felt tips, scissors, sticky tac, (optional) small pictures of a fig tree, a seed and soil, words cut out from this week's newspapers about tragedies or injustice, glue sticks.
- Talk together or think quietly about how, when we feel sad or worried, we want to know that Jesus is close to us.
 - Invite the children to draw and colour a fig tree, a seed and soil on their teardrops and/or stick the pictures and newspaper words onto them.
 - Cut out the teardrops and use sticky tac to stick each one onto the road to add to your Lenten journey.
 - Gather around the road and say this prayer together, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Lord Jesus,
I have made a teardrop
to remind me of the sad and bad things in life,
and to thank you for always being there for me,
even when I sometimes forget about you.
Amen.



6 March

Lent 4

Read **Luke 15.1-3,11b-32**

- You will need:** teardrop shapes, one per child, pencils, crayons or felt tips, scissors, sticky tac, (optional) small pictures of a heart, slips of paper with the phrase 'God loves me', mini-bunting, pieces of an old map, glue sticks.
- Talk together or think quietly about how God waits for us and the welcome, love and forgiveness we can find in God.
 - Invite the children to draw hearts and mini-bunting and write the words, 'God loves me' on their teardrops and/or stick the pictures and map pieces onto them.
 - Cut out the teardrops and use sticky tac to stick each one onto the road to add to your Lenten journey.
 - Gather around the road and say this prayer together, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Lord Jesus,
I have made a teardrop
to remind me of how sad you must be
when I don't follow you;
when I leave you and go my own way.
I am sorry.
Help me to come back to your party.
Amen.



13 March

Lent 5

Read **John 12.1-8**

- You will need:** teardrop shapes, one per child, pencils, crayons or felt tips, scissors, sticky tac, (optional) small pictures to represent our senses, e.g. eyes, ears, noses, mouths/ lips, hands or what we do with them, glue sticks.
- Talk together or think quietly about how God 'speaks' to all our senses and how we use them to worship God.
 - Invite the children to draw parts of the body or symbols of each sense: taste, sight, hearing, touch and smell onto their teardrops and/or stick the pictures onto them.
 - Cut out the teardrops and use sticky tac to stick each one onto the road to add to your Lenten journey.
 - Gather around the road and say this prayer together, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Lord Jesus,
I have made a teardrop
to remind me that I can know God
and worship him with all my senses.
Help me to understand
what you saw, touched, heard, smelled and tasted
on your journey to Jerusalem.
Amen.



20 March

Palm Sunday 6

Read **Luke 19.28-40**

You will need: teardrop shapes, one per child, pencils, crayons or felt tips, scissors, sticky tac, (optional) small pictures of a donkey, scraps of material, glue sticks.

- Talk together or think quietly about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, his disciples and friends around him; the crowds shouting and waving and laying their cloaks on the road to make a path for him, caught up in the excitement of the moment.
- Invite the children to draw and colour a donkey and cloaks or coats on their teardrop and/or stick the pictures and material onto them.
- Cut out the teardrops and use sticky tac to stick each one onto the road to add to your Lenten journey.
- Gather around the road and say this prayer together, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Lord Jesus,
I have made a teardrop
to remind me of your triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
You knew that the people who welcomed you that day
would have abandoned you by the end of the week.
That must have made you cry tears of sadness.
I am sorry for the times I have turned against you,
and found it difficult to say that you're my friend.
Amen.



27 March Easter Day

Read **John 20.1-18**

You will need: teardrop shapes, one per child, pencils, crayons or felt tips, scissors, sticky tac, black marker pen, (optional) small pictures of flowers, eggs, butterflies or chicks, circles of yellow card (6cm diameter) and circles of green card (12cm diameter), glue sticks.

- Talk together or think quietly about Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Today's teardrop will be a tear of joy not sadness!
- Invite the children to draw and colour things to represent the new life of Easter, e.g. eggs, flowers, butterflies on their teardrop and/or stick the pictures onto them.
- With the black marker pen, colour a black edge to the green and yellow card circles.
- Carefully unstick all the tears from the Lenten journey to Jerusalem. Put glue all over the front of the green circle and stick on the tears as petals of a flower, so that their points nearly touch in the centre. Then stick the yellow circle over the top of all the points to make the centre of the flower.



- The teardrops of sadness have been transformed into flowers of joy and praise! They should look a bit like scenes in a stained glass window, that celebrate the joy of Easter, but show how the sad events of Lent had to happen first.
- Gather around the Easter flowers and say this prayer together, inviting the children to repeat each line after you:

Risen Lord Jesus,
I have made all my teardrops
to remind me of your journey to Jerusalem.
Today they have become flowers of joy,
because you have risen
and are living with me.
Halleluiah!



