

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 21st February 2021
The First Sunday of Lent

Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together the story of the beginning of Jesus preparing for his ministry.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Mark 1 v 9–15

Read the passage together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Genesis 9 v 8-17

Psalms 25 v 1-9

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus' baptism and time in the wilderness. Thank you for this reminder that Jesus was fully God and fully human, that he faced challenges and choices just like we do.

Help us to make wise choices this week and to live in obedience to you. As we enter Lent help us to find new ways to draw closer to you, to serve and love others and to live for you.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Jesus wanted to get baptized?

Jesus chose to live his life as an example for us to follow, his baptism was a public demonstration that the time had come to begin his ministry. Baptism is a symbol of new life, a fresh start and commitment to God. Jesus showed his commitment by being baptized and God the Father spoke to all those listening, confirming that Jesus was his son.

A question for children to ask adults

Why do you think Jesus went into the desert for forty days?

Jesus took time to prepare himself for his ministry, he knew that it would not be easy and that one day he would die on the cross. God's plan involved Jesus living as a human and choosing to be obedient and not sin. Jesus' forty days in the desert remind us of the forty years the Israelites spent in the wilderness when they disobeyed God, and his temptation reminds us of the temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Jesus faced temptation and challenge, but he was obedient and faithful to God--He never sinned.

A question to answer together

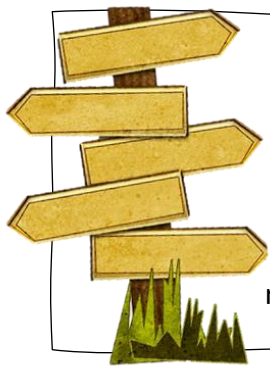
How can we serve God during Lent? What can we do to focus our hearts on God during this time?

Family Activity 1

What is the hardest thing to say no to? What is the hardest thing to say yes to? Jesus said yes to God's plan, he was baptized and lived his life for God knowing that one day he would die on the cross. Jesus was tempted in the desert but he said no and made good choices.

Play the **yes and no** game. Have a conversation without saying the words yes or no. The last person to say yes or no is the winner. It's trickier than it sounds!





A verse to remember

Psalm 25 v 4

Lord, tell me your ways. Show me how to live.

To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Family Activity 2

Play a game of follow the leader

Jesus lived his life to be an example for us to follow. Can you be a good leader and example for others? Take turns being the leader, everybody else must follow you and do exactly what you do!



Active Prayer

John who baptized Jesus preached a baptism of changed hearts and lives. Even though we know that our mistakes are forgiven through Jesus it is still good to repent and say sorry to God for our mistakes. It is good to recognize areas in our own hearts and lives where we might need to make changes.

Spend some time listening to God and thinking about your own life. Write or draw on paper any behaviors or thoughts you know are not pleasing to God.

Take a bowl of water and place the paper into it. Scrunch, tear and soak the paper in the water till it is completely destroyed.

No mistake we make is too big for God to forgive and with God's help we can change our hearts and lives, choosing to follow Him.

After the activity use a sieve to remove any remaining paper from the bowl and dispose of it. Don't pour it away down the sink as you may block your drain!



Helping Older Children

Baptism traditions vary between different church denominations and older children may ask why Jesus' baptism story is different from your own church tradition. These pictures all show different baptism traditions – you could talk about the ages and locations in the pictures.

What do they all have in common? They are about an individual and their commitment to changing their heart and life for God.



Lent Connections Challenge

Why not make time to connect with God in new ways during this Lent. Here are some ideas inspired by today's story.

Water Challenge

Use water as a point of connection with God, take a moment to pray every time you wash your hands.

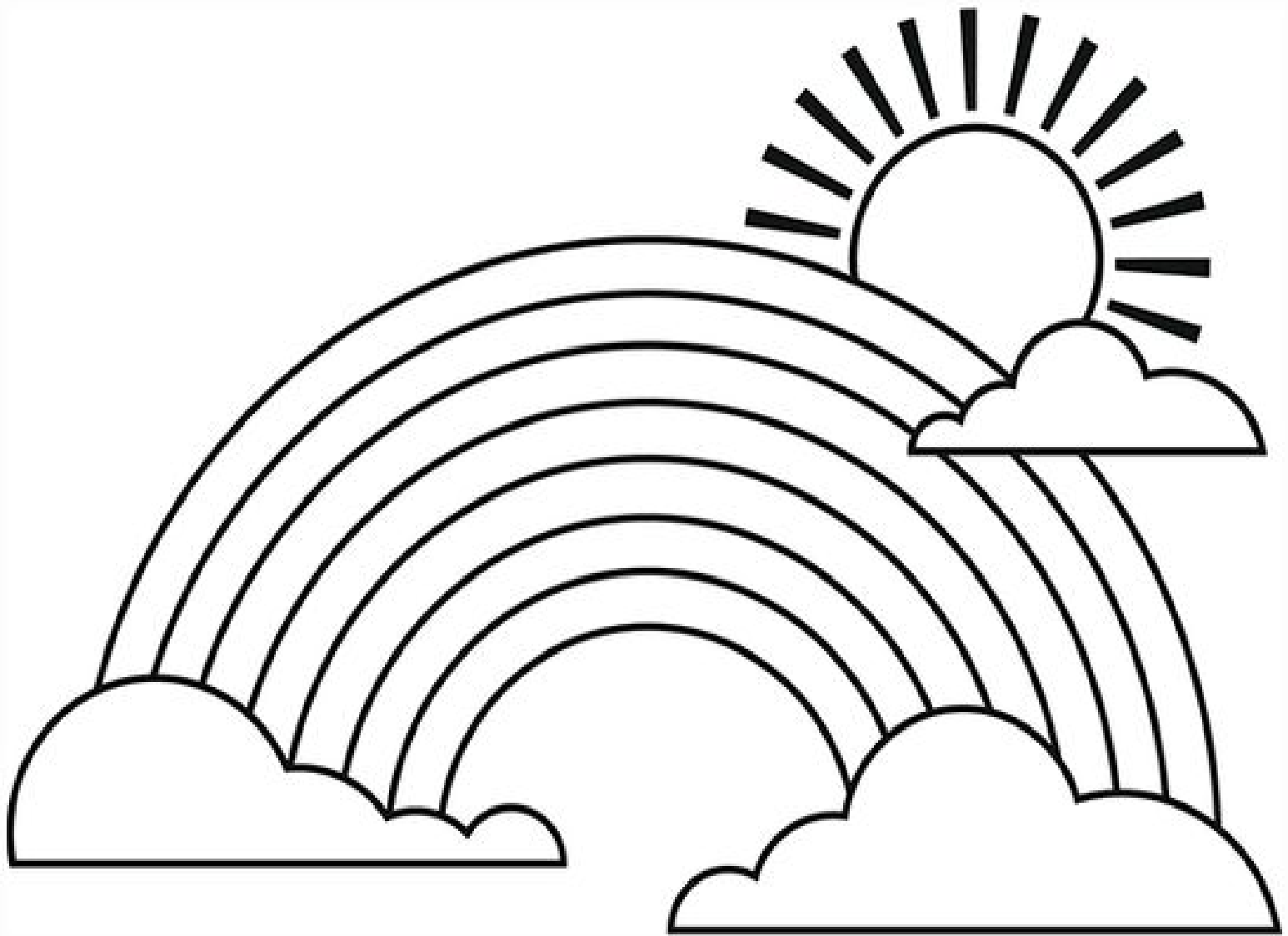
Desert Challenge

Make space for some quiet time with God, each finding a space to sit, still your heart before God and listen to his voice.

Coloring Page

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

"I set my rainbow in the cloud and it will be a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth." (Genesis 9:13)



I can pray a rainbow...

Genesis 9 v 13

"I am putting my rainbow in the clouds as the sign of the agreement between me and the earth"



God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never again send a flood like the one that Noah had survived in the ark. Today the rainbow is a symbol of hope for us, and a reminder that God keeps his promises. Here are some rainbow inspired activities for you and your family to explore together.

Rainbow prayer hunt

Go on a search around your house and try to find something of each of the colors below. Here is a prayer you can say for each color as you find them.



RED

Thank you, God, that you love us and that you are always with us.



ORANGE

Dear God, please help us to be patient, to wait and listen to you and to be obedient while we wait for this crisis to end.

YELLOW

Dear God, please help all those who are scared. May they know your perfect peace that takes away all fear.



GREEN

Dear God, please look after all those who are sick, give them the treatment and help they need to recover, send your healing power into all the world.



BLUE

Dear God, please protect all those who are working for our emergency services, thank you for all they are doing to protect us.



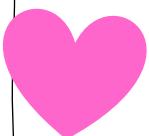
PURPLE

Thank you, God, that we are children of the King of Kings. Thank you that even though we are in difficult times we can trust in you and pray your Kingdom come.



PINK

Thank you, God, that we know you will bring us through this crisis to safety on the other side just as you protected Noah and brought him and his family through the flood.



Make an encouragement rainbow

You will need: Paper and pens or any other craft materials you have around the house

All around the world people are putting rainbows in their windows to encourage people in their street.

Use whatever craft materials you have in your house to decorate a rainbow and put it in your window where your neighbors can see it.



Some promises to share

Here are some more of God's promises from the Bible. Ask God who needs encouraging today and then send them a promise verse.

Joshua 1:9- Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid because the LORD your God will be with you everywhere you go.

Jeremiah 29:11 – "I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the LORD, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future."

Mark 11:24 – So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

Romans 8:28 – We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.

