

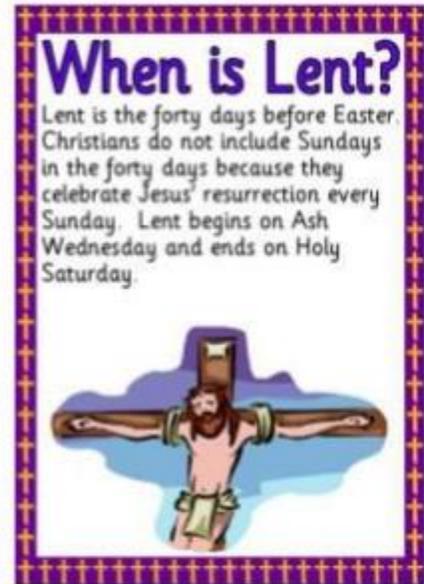
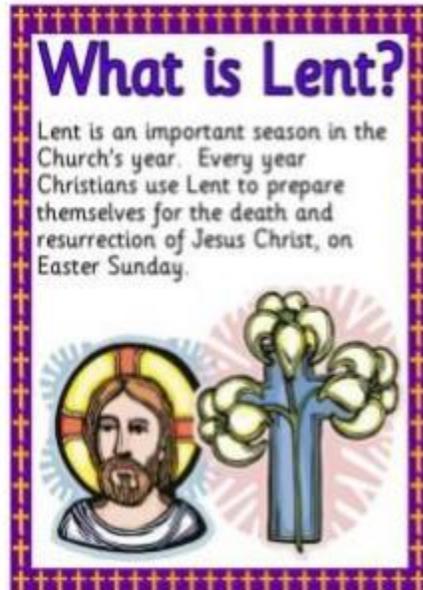
Children's Ministries Message

March 2018

What Is Lent?

(for children)

Easter is when we celebrate God raising Jesus to new life after his death on a cross. It is a great day and very important to the Christian faith because it is what makes Christianity different from other religions. Before Jesus died on the cross, people had a lot to fear because they were separated



from God as a result of the sin in their lives. Romans 3:23 says that everyone has sinned and is away from God. In Romans 6:23 it says that the consequence of that sin is death, but God has given us an amazing gift. On the first Easter God said, "I know that you have done wrong and it makes me sad that you have turned away from my love, but Jesus has taken the world's trouble on himself. He died and was separated from me for your sake. For you, he was cut off from my love and grace and felt my anger instead of you. Now everything is forgiven; and I have made Jesus alive again, and we never have to be apart again. Jesus paid the price of your sin and dealt with death once and for all."

This is a great gift that God has given us. We no longer have to be afraid, but we must not forget about this gift. Sometimes it is easy to forget when we try to make ourselves comfortable without God with new toys, or playing video games or eating sweet things. These things however, can't really satisfy the God-hunger that is in each one of us. For this reason, during Lent, many Christians give up these comforts. They try to make room for God again. It may feel strange and uncomfortable, and we may even be sad that we can't have what we want, but we can also feel closer to God.

I hope you all have a blessed Lenten season.

Chelsea Payton, Children's Ministry Director