

Mission Together

Lent Activity: Prayer Chain



Introduction

This activity invites the children to compose their own Lenten prayer, which will be shared and prayed as a class.

These prayers will be linked together to form a Prayer Chain to display in your classroom, keeping prayer at the centre of your Lent preparations.

Activity

Invite the children to consider what things we do in Lent as we prepare for Easter (Prayer, Fasting and Sharing). This activity will help the children with their prayers as they consider how they can be more like Jesus and try to make changes so that life is better for everyone. Invite the children to write prayers which will be shared with the class in a **Prayer Chain**. Suggestions might be to write a prayer of thanks to God for sending us his Son or it could be a prayer asking God to help them carry out their Lenten promise, or simply a prayer for someone who is lonely, poor or sick.

Emphasise to the children that these prayers will be shared with the class so that you will all pray them together. The prayers are anonymous but the children should be reminded that their prayers will be read out, should they wish to keep something private.

Provide each child with a strip of coloured paper. If possible the paper should be in Easter/springtime colours such as yellow, white, pink or green. On this strip of paper they should write their prayer, and could even draw a picture to accompany it. Once finished, these paper strips should be collected and placed in a box or tray. Each morning one strip will be selected from the box, either by the teacher or a pupil, and read out as the class prayer for the day.

After the prayer is read, each strip is then attached to the previous day's prayer, using glue or a stapler, forming a paper chain. This will happen every day throughout Lent until all of the prayers have been read.

By the end of Lent each child will have contributed a prayer and everyone will have prayed together for their intentions. You will also have created a class **Prayer Chain**. This will make a great decoration for your classroom for Easter. You could even combine the **Prayer Chains** from multiple classes and create one long school **Prayer Chain** to decorate the hall or school entrance. These **Prayer Chains** could also be presented at your local church as part of your Easter celebrations. In this way you are sharing, reflecting, collaborating and keeping prayer as a central focus in Lent.

You will need:

- Strips of sugar paper in Easter/springtime colours (yellow, green, etc)
- Pens/pencils
- Glue or a stapler

