

Mission Together

Lent Activity: Signs of Hope



Introduction

Explain to the class that in this activity they will be thinking about Lent and how, through sharing and prayer, they can be signs of hope for the world.

Reflection

Ask the children about their Lenten 'Signs of Hope' assembly and the lessons they learnt from it.

Remind the children that Lent is a special time of new life for the followers of Jesus. In Lent, Christians make a special effort to spend more time doing three things that were important to Jesus: living simply, sharing what we have with others, and prayer.

Ask the children what they can remember about snowdrops?

Remind them that snowdrops are special little flowers. Although they are only small and look delicate, they are very strong and are the first flowers of the year to break through the hard, cold earth. Because of this, snowdrops are a sign of hope. They tell us that winter is coming to a close and nature is springing back to life.

Ask the children if they've noticed any snowdrops yet. If so, what did the sight of these little flowers make them feel?

Snowdrops should encourage us to remember that our Lenten efforts, although they may be small, become beautiful signs of hope for the world. Giving up things we want in order to help provide others with the things they need, makes us feel happy, as does the sight of snowdrops in bloom after a cold and dark winter.

Activity

Explain to the children that they will be making snowdrops as symbols of hope and the new life of spring.

Ask them to think about what they could do this Lent as a sign of hope. What could they give up so as to share with others? They could sacrifice some of their pocket-money to give to Mission Together. They could give up a few minutes each day to pray for children in poverty across the world. They could forgo a favourite TV programme to read a story to a younger relative.

The children's snowdrops will each have two leaves. On one leaf they should write (or draw) one thing they will sacrifice this Lent, and on the other they should write (or draw) what act of kindness this will enable them to do.

When the children have finished, you may want to stick all of their snowdrops onto a wall, to create a Lenten 'Garden of Hope' display. Alternatively, you could create a garden display by filling a large tray or trough with soil and inviting the children to 'plant' their snowdrops by placing them into the soil. As you approach Good Friday and Easter Sunday, this 'Garden of Hope' could host the three crosses and Jesus' tomb, strengthening the message that Lent is also a time of preparation for Jesus' great act of self-giving and new-life.

You will need:

- Bendy green straws
- Cotton pads
- PVA glue
- Green sugar paper
- Scissors

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Snowdrop Activity - Instructions

1. Draw two large leaf shapes on green paper.

These should be small enough to fit to your straw but big enough to write something on

(your teacher might provide you with a template).

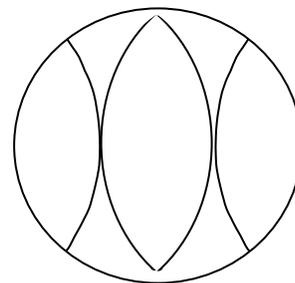
2. On one leaf, write or draw one thing you will sacrifice this Lent.

On the other leaf draw or write about an act of kindness enabled by your act of sacrifice.

For example, you might sacrifice some pocket money and give it to Mission Together and help children around the world.

Now cut out your leaves.

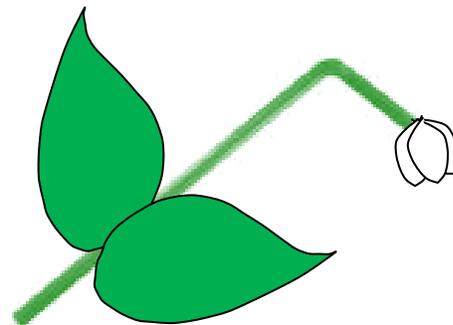
3. Cut three petal shapes from a single cotton pad (as shown).



4. Stick the three petals at the shorter end of the bent straw.

5. Stick on the leaves to the main stem of the straw.

6. Allow the glue to dry before displaying in your Lenten Garden of Hope



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- Bendy green straws
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- PVA glue
- Green sugar paper
- Scissors

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Snowdrop Activity - Alternative version for younger children

Instructions:

1. Using a pencil, draw around your hand on white paper or card.
2. Cut out the hand shape with scissors. You may need a grown-up to help you.
3. Draw a bud shape (as shown) on green paper or card. It needs to be big enough to fit over the wrist end of your hand shape.
4. Draw a large, bent stem on the green paper and two large leaves.
5. On one leaf, write a Lent Promise - something kind you will do for others this Lent.
6. Cut out the bud, stem and leaf shapes.
7. Stick all of the pieces together into a snowdrop.

You will need:

- White paper or card
- Green paper or card
- PVA glue
- Pencils
- Scissors

