

Lent 2020 Resources

JOURNEY WITH..

School Assembly ideas

WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD ASSEMBLY?

The assembly sandwich

Music
Sign of the cross
The filling
Prayer
Sign of the cross
Music

- 1) **Music** is always good to start and end the assembly, it sets the mood for the assembly. This music doesn't necessarily need to be liturgical but something that sets the scene. For lent it might be something more sombre and reflective whereas for Easter it might be more joy filled and lively. It is always a good idea to send the students out with some joyful music regardless of the assembly theme.
- 2) **The Sign of the Cross** at the beginning and the end of the assembly is important. This emphasises the idea that this is a prayer, not a performance. It also gives the students the indication that we are about to begin and that they need to be ready. It is recommended that this is a member of staff who makes the sign of the cross.
- 3) **The filling** of the assembly is the bit most staff will spend most time on and this can be a variety of different things. This should be related to your theme and should ideally include some scripture. It should also have the students involved and participating in some way.
- 4) **Prayer** is important to bring the whole things together, praying for the school community or for the wider world but also keeping your prayer linked to your content is important. Staff shouldn't be afraid of a moments silence before the prayer.

Another way to look at it is with the 4 W's

Welcome
Word
Witness
Worship

- 1) **Welcome** – the Sign of the Cross – the act of welcoming students to their assembly this could be done by a member of staff or by students themselves. The welcome also sets the scene and the tone of the assembly.
- 2) **Word** - the Word of God should be included in the assembly, there is a wealth of scripture out there that can link to almost every theme of assembly. There might also be a link to the Saints with quotes from Saints that work in with the theme of the assembly.
- 3) **Witness** - this may take the form of a reading of a video or some sort of sharing from the young people. The witness opens up the scripture for the students and helps them understand the word. This should be something active and engaging, possibly a relevant video or piece of news.
- 4) **Worship** – moving into worship is important and there are many ways to do this. However, to bring together the whole assembly its important to pray. There may be a time of silence or a time of intercessory prayer. The students may be invited to take part in a call and response prayer.

LENT ASSEMBLY IDEAS

Music Ideas

Beautiful things

Brokenness and transformation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=90&v=oyPBtExE4W0&feature=emb_logo

The power of the cross

A beautiful reflective hymn ideal for Good Friday.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL6F51E640736594DD&time_continue=37&v=aowdjLeaCYs&feature=emb_logo

When I survey the wondrous cross

A classic but worth it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=D-mKnY2HMXg&feature=emb_logo

I Christ Alone

Again another classic, the video isn't the best but the song has some great messages.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZYpjBeM0To&list=PLtKvJdYymssTuyh2M8NvwH0qhOs-hzM51&index=2>

Here I am to worship

A good song to start with, the video also have scenes from the passion of the Christ. May be worth watching first before showing to younger year groups.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PC-yHnqttAU&list=PLtKvJdYymssTuyh2M8NvwH0qhOs-hzM51&index=3>

Lord Please Help – The Brilliance

A painful yet powerful song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pf9k5RxERrY>

Once and for all – Lauren Daigle

Giving everything to God also good for reconciliation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oaRYLEeis>

Lord I need you – Matt Maher

Everyone of us needs Jesus in our life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuvfMDhTyMA>

SCRIPTURE IDEAS FOR LENT

Pray

John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Jeremiah 29:12

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Luke 11:2-4

He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.' "

Mathew 26:36-37

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Fast

Exodus 34:27-28

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments.

Luke 4:1-4

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

Mathew 6:16-17

"When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Mathew 9:14-17

Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

Give

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Proverbs 18:16

A gift opens the way
and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 6:2

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

LENT ACTIVITY IDEAS

VALUE OR NO VALUE

Show the young people a variety of different pieces of artwork, some that are expensive and others that are worthless and ask them to think about how much its worth.

Ask the young people to make a decision if they think the artwork is worth a lot or worth nothing. Show 5 or 6 different pictures.

Once this is complete tell the young people you will have one more round, ask for a volunteer to join you at the front and ask them to stand inside a cut out frame. The point being that we are all God's masterpiece.

Scripture link:

Psalms 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Lent link:

Each one of us are of value to God, how much value will we put on lent? Will we only give what we can spare, or will we give all we can? Will we value our prayer during lent or just ignore it?

GIVE IT OR GIVE UP

Show the young people a range of different images of food. For example, a whispa, a Brussel sprout, roast dinner, a McDonalds, a lettuce. Ask the young people which one they would choose to give to someone else and which one they would choose to give up during lent, show each picture again asking for a show of hands.

Scripture link:

The widows offering – Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Lent link:

Sometimes it's hard to give up the things we like and easier to give up the things we don't like. But how can we make a real difference this lent and give up something that we might struggle to give up or give away something we might struggle to give away. God always forgives us when we fail.

PANCAKE CHALLENGE

Ask the students what the ingredients of a pancake are? See how many answers you get.

Ask the students what they think the main four ingredients are? At this point you could ask a young person to come and start putting some of the ingredients in a bowl. The main 4 ingredients are: Flour, Salt, Eggs and Milk

The ingredients in a pancake can be seen to symbolise four points of significance for this time of year:

Flour – Staple of human life

Salt – Wholesomeness

Eggs – Creation

Milk - Purity

- 1) Staple of human life – Giving thanks to God for all that we have in our life, for the abundance of food and also an opportunity to pray for those who have not got all we have.
- 2) Wholesomeness – Giving ourselves the opportunity to bring all parts of our life back together with God and giving us the chance to make ourselves whole again.
- 3) Creation – Celebrating all that God created and committing to taking care of it.
- 4) Purity – Saying sorry for all the things we have done wrong and having the opportunity to reconcile with God and those around us.

At the end of the input there could be an opportunity to have a pancake race or a flipping challenge

Scripture link:

Isaiah 58:6 Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to lose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Lent link:

During lent we are all called to fast and give up something. However maybe this lent we could see if we can take the four ingredients and try to make our life better by doing rather than giving up. How can we become more appreciative of Gods creation? What have we got to say sorry to God for? How can we make ourselves more whole during lent? Can we give thanks for all that we have in life?

LOGO CHALLENGE

Show the students the following images without the names below them and ask the students to guess what the brand is.

		
Apple	Shell	Batman
		
Rolex	Starbucks	Toyota
		
McDonalds	Nike	Wella

The young people should be able to guess the logos. Once all have been guessed then a picture of a cross should be show on the screen, ideally without the image of Jesus.

Ask the young people what this symbol means and take their ideas.

Scripture link:

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Lent link:

We all know the symbols and logs really well but do we really realise what the symbol of the cross stand for? Jesus giving his life so that we might live. Today and for every day during lent we are asked to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team

