

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 5**

### **On the Lenten Journey**

#### **Lesson 1**

#### **What is Lent?**

## Unit 5 Lesson 1

### On The Lenten Journey

#### What is Lent?

##### Lesson Overview

Students will recall and review prior knowledge and experiences of Lent. The significance of Lent and its associated symbols will be discussed. Students will think of ways to prepare for Easter.

**Duration:** 40 minutes

**\*\*\*This unit should be started a few days before Ash Wednesday.**

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

##### Religious Education:

**Grade 4 - CL3.1:** Examine scripture passages of the Old Testament and New Testament which are proclaimed during specific Liturgical seasons i.e. Lent, and communicate what they reveal about and celebrate in Jesus' life.

**Grade 5 - BL1.1:** Examine a selection of biblical passages that reveal the link between sin, grace, conversion and mercy in God's plan of salvation

**Grade 6 - CL3:** Demonstrate an understanding of the Liturgical season of Lent as it is revealed through rituals, images and symbols.

##### Language:

**Reading 1:** read and demonstrate an understanding of a variety of literary, graphic, and informational texts, using a range of strategies to construct meaning

#### ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

##### The Catholic Social Teachings evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

##### The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations evident in this lesson include:

A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community Who:

**CGE1c:** Actively reflects on *God's Word* as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

An Effective Communicator Who:

**CGE2a:** Listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values.

## Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

### GUIDING QUESTIONS (coming out of the Big Idea)

#### Big Idea:

- The Liturgical seasons are marked by specific rituals, prayers, signs, images and colours which have developed throughout the Tradition of the Church and which have become part of our experience of faith in Christ as expressed in the yearly life of the Church. (Celebrating, Grade 4)
- What special practices and symbols are associated with the season of Lent?

#### Scripture Passages:

- Jonah 3:1-10
- Psalm 51:9-12

### LEARNING GOALS

At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:

- Describe Lent as one of the Church's liturgical seasons that begins with Ash Wednesday and leads to Easter
- Explain some of the special practices and symbols associated with Lent

**Success Criteria**, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the "look-fors") in relation to curriculum expectations.

### INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT

#### Terminology:

- Lent
- Ash Wednesday
- Ashes
- Fasting

#### Materials:

- notebooks
- Bibles

#### Resources:

- "Come Back to Me" lyrics (*see Appendix 1 attached*)

**Video:** "Hosea - Come Back to Me" performed by John Michael Talbot [https://youtu.be/FB0TWvag\\_Ic](https://youtu.be/FB0TWvag_Ic)

### MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Introduce Lenten Journals by handing out notebooks. Project or distribute a photo of a church or school celebration during Lent. In their journals have students record, using words, pictures or symbols, what comes to mind when they think of Lent. Ask for volunteers to share what they have recorded in their journals and begin an anchor chart entitled "Lent" on which students' reflections and vocabulary words can be recorded.

## Though Many, We Are One - Religious Education for Combined Junior Grades

### ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

Read Jonah 3:1-10 together.

Discuss what the people of Nineveh did to change God's mind (*the king removed his robe and sat in ashes, people wore sackcloth, they fasted, prayed and turned from their evil ways*). Students could discuss in pairs, times when they tried to change someone's mind (i.e. classmates, parents etc.).

Discuss how Lent (*word means springtime or change*) is a time to prepare for Easter and a time to look at our lives and change our hearts and think about our relationship with God. Like the people of Nineveh, we have special practices during Lent; wearing ashes, fasting, almsgiving and praying. Talk about some of the symbols of Lent, the colour purple, ashes, the crown of thorns, the cross.

Distribute or project copies of the song "Come Back to Me" and watch the video

[https://youtu.be/FBOTWvag\\_Ic](https://youtu.be/FBOTWvag_Ic)

### CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Have students return to their journals and add any new learning from the discussions today.

Ask them to answer the following:

- What will you do to prepare for Easter? or
- How will you change your heart during Lent?

Turn to Psalm 51 in Bibles and pray verses 9-12.

### CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

- The class could take an active role in preparing and leading the school Ash Wednesday mass or prayer service.
- Illustrate the song "Come Back to Me" in groups on mural paper or individually.

APPENDIX 1

Come Back To Me

Gregory Norbet, O.S.B.

Come back to me with all your heart,  
don't let fear keep us apart.  
Trees do bend, tho' straight and tall;  
so must we to others' call.

REFRAIN: Long have I waited for your coming  
home to me and living deeply our new life.

The wilderness will lead you  
to your heart where I will speak.  
Integrity and justice  
with tenderness you shall know.

REFRAIN: Long have I waited for your coming  
home to me and living deeply our new life.

You shall sleep secure with peace;  
Faithfulness will be your joy.

REFRAIN: Long have I waited for your coming  
home to me and living deeply our new life.

*Copyright © 1972 The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. Weston Vermont USA*