

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 5**

### **On the Lenten Journey**

#### **Lesson 2**

#### **Ashes**

## Unit 5 Lesson 2

### On The Lenten Journey

#### Ashes

##### Lesson Overview

Students will learn the meaning of Ash Wednesday and the significance of receiving ashes.

**Duration:** 80 minutes (2 class periods)

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

##### Religious Education:

**Grade 4 - CL3:** Understand how the Church creates sacred space for the celebration of the sacraments and uses symbols, rituals, words, to reveal the action of Christ in our lives

**Grade 6 - CL3.3:** Examine the rituals in the Church's liturgy for Ash Wednesday and unravel the meaning that each symbol, gesture and word has in relationship to Christ and how it may apply to our Christian life.

##### The Arts:

**Visual Arts: D1:** Creating and Presenting: apply the creative process to produce a variety of two- and three-dimensional art works, using elements, principles, and techniques of visual arts to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings

#### 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:

**CGE1a:** Illustrates a basic understanding of the saving story of our Christian faith

An Effective Communicator Who:

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

#### 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.
- What is the meaning of the practices and symbols associated with Ash Wednesday?

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

### LEARNING GOALS

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

- the significance of ashes and why they are placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday

**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

#### Materials:

- Lenten Journals
- prepared ashes or artist’s charcoal
- sheets of white paper

#### Resources:

- Song: “Ashes” by Tom Conry  
<https://youtu.be/8dO5kBOGnYA>
- Lyrics for “Ashes” (see Appendix 1)
- “The Meaning of Ash Wednesday” worksheet (see Appendix 2)
- “Ash Wednesday & Lent In Two Minutes” worksheet (see Appendix 3)
- Wordlists for worksheets (See Appendix 4)

#### Video Resources:

- “Ash Wednesday” from The Religion Teacher  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=3DB-I5SnMRg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=3DB-I5SnMRg)

#### OR

- “Ash Wednesday & Lent In Two Minutes” from Busted Halo  
<http://bustedhalo.com/video/ash-wednesday-in-two-minutes>

### MINDS ON

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

Play the song or video of “Ashes” (<https://youtu.be/8dO5kBOGnYA>) while students listen and/or sing along. This song is also available in the Spirit and Song/ Never Too Young collections. Ask students to answer the following questions in their Lenten Journals: Why is this song a good song for Lent? What do you think “We rise again from ashes” means? Ask for volunteers to share their journal entries and add to the class “Lent” anchor chart.

## 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)

*Preview the two video resources and select the one which is most appropriate for your students. The Religion Teacher video is a lecture-style lesson. The Busted Halo video has to be read by viewers and moves quite quickly. You may want to read it aloud or play it several times.*

Tell students they will be watching a video about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and completing a worksheet. Distribute the appropriate video worksheet (*Appendix 2 or Appendix 3*) and read over it with the students.

Give students some time to fill in the worksheet individually or with a partner. Reread the worksheet asking volunteers to fill in the blanks. Some new vocabulary words can be added to the class “Lent” anchor chart.

*\*Differentiated instruction: Students may use assistive technology or a scribe to complete worksheet. A list of answers may also be provided to some students (see Appendix 4).*

### CONSOLIDATION

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

On the second day, introduce the art activity by reiterating the meaning of ashes.

The following could be used:

*“The ashes we use on Ash Wednesday come from the palms that were given out last year on Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday we remember how Jesus returned to Jerusalem before he was arrested, tried, tortured and put to death on a cross. The palms are burnt and the ashes are placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. The priest may say ‘Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return’ or ‘Turn away from sin and live the gospel’. We wear ashes to show that we want to turn away from whatever sins keep us from God.”*

Brainstorm with students some sins that they could turn away from during Lent. Record their responses on chart paper. Tell them that they will choose a sin and draw a picture of it using prepared ashes or artist’s charcoal. If using the ashes, students should rub a finger in the ashes and draw with their finger (like finger painting).

### CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

- Give students a few minutes each day to write in their journals. Suggestions for reflection may include:
  - the significance of ashes
  - your Lenten journey, what are you having difficulty with?
  - what successes have you had?
  - any questions you have about Lenten symbols and practices

APPENDIX 1

**ASHES**

Tom Conry

1. We rise again from ashes,  
from the good we've failed to do.  
We rise again from ashes,  
to create ourselves anew.  
If all our world is ashes,  
then must our lives be true,  
an offering of ashes, an offering to you.
2. We offer you our failures,  
we offer you attempts,  
the gifts not fully given,  
the dreams not fully dreamt.  
Give our stumblings direction,  
give our visions wider view,  
an offering of ashes, an offering to you.
3. Then rise again from ashes,  
let healing come to pain,  
though spring has turned to winter,  
and sunshine turned to rain.  
The rain we'll use for growing,  
and create the world anew  
from an offering of ashes, an offering to you.
4. Thanks be to the Father,  
who made us like himself.  
Thanks be to his Son,  
who saved us by his death.  
Thanks be to the Spirit  
who creates the world anew  
from an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

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APPENDIX 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Video: The Meaning of Ash Wednesday**

<http://www.thereligionteacher.com/ashwednesdayvideo>

*Directions: Watch the video and fill in the blanks.*

Even though so many Catholics go to Mass on Ash Wednesday, it is not a Holy Day of \_\_\_\_\_. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the forty day period leading up to \_\_\_\_\_, but if you were to actually count them you would find that there are actually \_\_\_\_\_ days during the season of Lent. This is because we don't count \_\_\_\_\_ as a part of the forty days of Lent. This day, the Lord's Day, is a celebration of the Resurrection and new life and therefore not a day for fasting.

Why do we wear ashes on Ash Wednesday? When we receive the ashes we hear "Remember that you are \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ you shall return." This is to help us recognize that all we have is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God. Ashes were a sign of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Old Testament. In the early Church, the Order of \_\_\_\_\_ wore ashes as a sign of their penance. In a similar way, John the \_\_\_\_\_ called for repentance and baptism in preparation for the Kingdom of God. This is why we may also hear the words "Turn away from \_\_\_\_\_ and be faithful to the Gospel" when we receive the ashes

on our foreheads. ©The Religion Teacher

APPENDIX 3

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Video: Ash Wednesday & Lent In Two Minutes**

<http://bustedhalo.com/video/ash-wednesday-in-two-minutes>

*Directions: Watch the video and fill in the blanks.*

Ash Wednesday is the first day in the season of \_\_\_\_\_. It is about 40 days before \_\_\_\_\_ and represents the time Jesus' spent in the desert.

The ashes are the burned \_\_\_\_\_ from last year's Palm Sunday. Ashes are a sign of \_\_\_\_\_. When the ashes are distributed, the words "Turn away from \_\_\_\_\_ and be faithful to the Gospel." or "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." are said.

We wear ashes to acknowledge that we sin and are in need of repentance and \_\_\_\_\_. Ash Wednesday is the day when we begin to focus our attention on three practices: \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We fast to remind ourselves that we \_\_\_\_\_ on God; we give because God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ with others and we pray to become \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

## APPENDIX 4

### Wordlist for Appendix 2 – The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

gift	Sundays	Baptist	46
obligation	Penitents	dust	sin
dust	Easter	repentance	

### Wordlist for Appendix 3 – Ash Wednesday and Lent in Two Minutes

closer	almsgiving	sin	palms
Lent	renewal	praying	Easter
repentance	share	fasting	depend