

Lent

FOCUS

1. The effects of original sin weaken us and draw us away from God.
2. Lent is a season of forty days when we prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus during Holy Week and Easter.
3. The life of Jesus was a life of sacrifice. Before beginning his public mission, Jesus spent forty days in prayer and fasting in the wilderness of the Judean desert.
4. All sacrifices during Lent should be aimed at growing more Christ-like, increasing our love for both God and neighbour.

In these lessons your child may have:

- identified the effects of original sin;
- acknowledged that God sent Jesus to save us from sin and death;
- identified Lent as a time for sacrifices;
- reflected upon and discussed the Scripture story of the widow's mite;
- suggested ways in which they can make real and serious sacrifices in their own lives;
- acknowledged that acts of charity should not be done for show.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put everything she possessed, all she had to live on."

Matthew 6:1-2

Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all rewards from your Father in heaven.

TO REMEMBER:

Lent is a season to give generously of our time, talent and treasure.

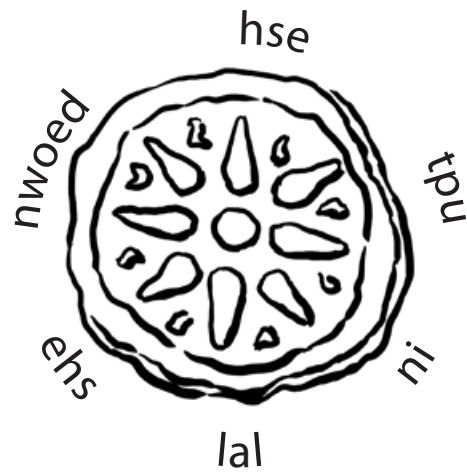
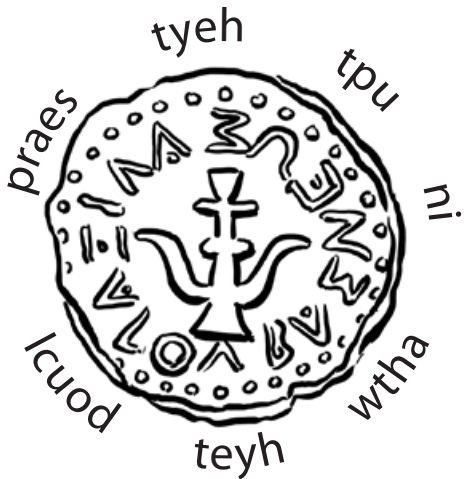
SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

The following are suggested activities for you to do with your child.

1. Discuss with your child the statement that sometimes to do the right thing is to do the hard thing.
2. When watching television as a family, highlight to your child occasions when the central character is faced with a moral dilemma. Ask your child if they would have made the same decision.
3. Visit your local church and obtain a set of Project Compassion envelopes. Each week read one story and as a family pray for the person/people mentioned in the story.
4. Discuss with your child how they feel when another person does good deeds just to 'show off' and receive the praise of others.
5. Discuss ways your family could make small sacrifices for each other and show charity to others.
6. Encourage your child to consider ways in which people make real sacrifices to benefit others. Importantly, the sacrifices need not be of money, but may include giving of their time.
7. Encourage your child to complete the Extension Activity provided with this lesson.
8. More activities can be found at www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au Click on **Home Activities**.

The story of the widow's mite shows us that we don't have to be rich or powerful to do great things for God. God values the love in our actions.

- *Unscramble the words around the coins to find out what Jesus said about the widow's good deed.*





Lord Jesus,
 help us to be generous in our giving,
 thoughtful in our prayer, and less selfish in what we want, so
 that we can grow to be more like you.
 Amen.