

Mission Together

Lent Activity 2012

Self-Giving

Turning Over a New Leaf

Lent is a time for new beginnings; for saying sorry for past wrongs and turning over a new leaf in preparation for Easter. This activity complements the Mission Together Lent Liturgy and incorporates the Here I Am topic *Self-Giving*.

Introduction



Lent is a very special time of year. Can the children tell you what important feast Lent is leading up to? At Easter time, we remember how Jesus died for us and then rose again. This is why we celebrate new life at this time of year; we give eggs because eggs have new life inside them, we see flowers blooming after winter, and we see lambs being born. During Lent, we are preparing for Easter, a time for new beginnings. Sometimes people give things up for Lent, just like Jesus did in the desert, but sometimes people make a promise to 'turn over a new leaf'. Ask the children if they have heard the expression 'turning over a new leaf'. Do they know what it means? It is actually another kind of new beginning. When you 'turn over a

new leaf', you say sorry for things you have done wrong, you turn away from them and start again. You try to do something good and show a better side of yourself.

Activity

Provide each child with a template of a leaf. Explain that on one side they will be writing or drawing something they are sorry for. When they have finished, they can turn the leaf over, because if you are truly sorry, then God you will forgive you and it can be forgotten. On the other side of the leaf, the children should write or draw something good they can do this Lent. Perhaps it is something simple like keeping their room tidy or helping at home. Or maybe it is something they can do better in the future like trying not to argue or being a good friend. In taking part in this activity, each child is turning over a new leaf. They are putting any bad things behind them and making a promise to do something good.

You Will Need:

- Leaf templates
- Pencils/pens
- Hole punch
- String/ribbon
- Tree - image or physical branch

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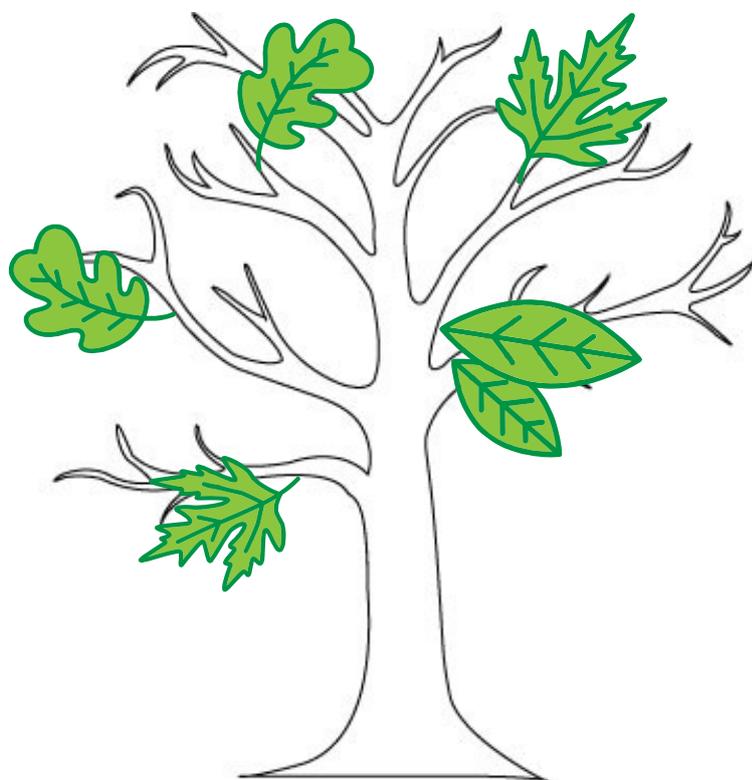
Plenary

Bring the children back together in a circle. Create a quiet, peaceful atmosphere and play some quiet music.

Explain that from today, everyone in the class will be turning over a new leaf. We can forget the things we have done wrong in the past and make a promise to God to do something better. Invite the children forward one by one to show or read the new side of their leaf where they have written or drawn something good they can do. The children can then place their leaf on a branch or tree. This could be a real or decorative branch placed in the middle of the circle on which the children can hang their leaves, or it could be an image of a tree on the board on which the leaves can be stuck. If possible, ensure that the new side of the leaf is visible. This will symbolise the turning over of the new leaf by each child, as well as showing the new life of Easter when leaves return to the trees and things begin to grow. Finish by saying the Mission Together prayer as a class.

Tip:

Use a hole punch to make a hole in each leaf, then thread a bit of string through it.



Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the World
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever

Amen



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