

Seasonal materials

school assembly or youth work in Lent

AIM

Maybe you are planning a School Assembly or piece of Youth work in Lent. Here are some things you might find useful – written from a school context for young people aged 11-18.

INTRODUCTION

If you are planning to introduce Lent to some 11-18 year olds, what language might you use? Here is a hymn, a sketch and a meditation based on Lent themes

HYMN: LET US ASHES FOR LENT DEPLOY

Let us ashes for Lent deploy,
Forty days we will now enjoy,
Forty nights in which we will pray
Seeking Jesus' way everyday.

Lent is here again, we can start again,
Ashes mark us out: Christ's we are!

Tempted then to turn stones to bread
Or let power go to his head,
In the desert for forty days
Jesus focused on God's right ways.

Tempted now to think selfishly
Or else ignore our neighbours, we
All get ready to give that up:
Pass the towel, the bread, the cup.

Tune: Linstead Market (88 88 10 8) (Number 453 in Rejoice and Sing)

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SKETCH: BASED ON MATTHEW 4:1-11

D: Jesus, bet you're hungry. Jesus Christ, bet you're starving now. Forty days and forty nights – Jesus, that long. Bet you could turn those stones to bread – if you're hungry enough, bet you could, Jesus. Go on then. Jesus Christ, what's stopping you?

J: Sure I'm hungry, Satan, Of course I could do that, you old devil. But isn't there more to life than food, than food got quickly, than fast food? And isn't there more to food than bread? Don't we need more than food to really live? Listen, Satan – listen to the word of God.

D: Jesus, you're a dreamer. Jesus Christ, you're not real. Get up here and look at this. If you are God's Son then jump why don't you? Jump from here, Jesus. There's angels who will catch you and be glad of it. You won't get hurt, Jesus Christ.

J: So that's the next test is it Satan. Testing me again are you? Think I'm loosing it do you? Think I'd try it even to please angels? Don't put God to the test, Satan. Listen to God's word.

D: Jesus, you're not loosing it. Jesus Christ, you've got everything to gain. Look at this mountain, bigger than ever. See all those kingdoms, Jesus. You can have it all, Jesus Christ. You can have the power over every one of them. Just kneel down and worship me, Jesus. Go on, just do it. What's stopping you now?

J: Now it's you that's loosing it Satan. You know as well as I do, that only God is to be worshipped and that we serve God alone. Go!

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MEDITATION: LENT IS BONKERS

Lent is bonkers:

you and me God

belting round the universe

sometimes this way

sometimes that.

There's those who say 'Be quiet'

And I say 'Naff off'.

There are those that say

'Do it this way'

And I say 'Not on your life'.

Instead, I cartwheel

from one planet to another.

But there's a day coming:

you and me God

we know this day,

when everything hangs

in the balance

and the Life Giver

gives it all up

that we may live on.

I've got it in my sights now:

my heart is racing,

I can't stop it.

Lent is bonkers:

so much for forty days and nights.

When only one counts

this is the One we can count on.

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EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

There are more seasonal items on the website, including those from Prayer Year if you have not yet tried them.

Acknowledgements

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HOW TO FEEDBACK TO VISION4LIFE?

If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group and the coordinator about general issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

Website issues can be dealt with through web@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about V4L you can email:
Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk