

Cornerstones Curriculum - Lenten Programming with a Focus on Holy Week

If you are looking for a unique way to approach Lent, you'll find it at Cornerstones. As Christian Educators, our congregations call on us to lead them through a Lenten journey that will result in rejoicing on Easter morning.

Ponder the scope of your current program:

- ✓ Is it segmented across many age groups?
- ✓ Does it foster spiritual growth?
- ✓ Does it develop faith based on walking through Holy Week during Lent while studying its course in the Bible?
- ✓ Are you thinking of experimenting with an intergenerational component this year?

After you read through these ideas, you may decide to try something new this year. Or perhaps you already host a successful Lenten event, like an Easter Egg Hunt, but want a substantive faith formation piece.

All of the following ideas come from Cornerstones curriculum (www.cstones.com), cited by Year: Unit: Workshop Lesson. The lessons create strong links between the activity, the biblical foundations for Holy Week and Lent. All ideas can be planted into a rotation Sunday School, a one-time family event or an intergenerational setting.

	Concept	Cornerstones source
Ash Wednesday	Launch a Lenten series with a pancake breakfast on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, decorated for Mardi Gras. Make the connection between Mardi Gras, pancake breakfasts, Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.	Quest for Identity: Samaritan Woman at the Well: Created by the Spirit
Palm Sunday	Create a silhouette slideshow about Holy Week and show it on Good Friday.	Test of Faith: Garden of Gethsemane: Video Live
	Ponder the emotional ups and downs of Holy Week by creating roller coasters.	<i>Roller Coaster of Holy Week</i> Creative Uses CD
	Create an art gallery from religious art collections in the church or library. Make a hanging acetate "window" of witnesses standing at the foot of the cross, painted by the participants.	Messiah: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet: Created by the Holy Spirit
	Eat your way through Handel's <i>Messiah</i> by creating images in response to the music using snack foods. It's deeper than it appears and gives a solid overview of Jesus' ministry, crucifixion and resurrection.	Messiah: Handel's <i>Messiah</i> : Eat Your Way through the Bible
	Celebrate Easter the Bermuda way by launching kites on Easter morning as a symbol of the resurrection. Make them on Palm Sunday after church and let them fly on Easter morning. (So much better than balloons.)	Quest for Identity: Easter around the World: Created by the Spirit

Before Maundy Thursday service Or Enhanced Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday	Explore the body language in da Vinci's <i>Last Supper</i> and recreate it using parishioners and digital cameras.	Witness to God's Presence: Last Supper: Moved by the Spirit
	Learn about what Jesus said during the time he washed the feet of the disciples. Then create a miniature golf-course based on John 13-17.	Messiah: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet: Moved by the Spirit
	Host an intergenerational <i>Taste of the Seder</i> and use this as a platform for introducing children to communion.	Witness to God's Presence: Plagues and Passover: Eat Your Way through the Bible Witness: Last Supper: Eat Your Way through the Bible
	Connect a foot-washing ceremony with a sock drive for the homeless.	Messiah: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet: Faith Today
	Create pysanky-style eggs, a Lithuanian tradition of painting Easter eggs with symbols of the faith.	Covenant: Crucifixion and Resurrection: Bedouin Encampment
Good Friday	Offer a child-friendly Tennebrae Worship service before the Good Friday service. Watch the silhouette slideshow made earlier.	Witness to God's Presence: Last Supper: Mary & Martha's B&B
Easter Sunday	Launch those kites made last week on Palm Sunday!	
	Try a butterfly launch.	Word of God: Church Year: Bedouin Encampment

Envision how some of these ideas might work in your program as

- ✓ A unit in your rotation Sunday School
- ✓ The focus of a midweek program
- ✓ A three-hour onetime event for children/families
- ✓ A pre- or post-worship potluck with emphasis on spiritual growth for all ages.

Within each of Cornerstones' six years of curriculum, there is one unit that focuses on Holy Week and another on Easter and the Resurrection. Go to <http://www.cstones.com/scope.htm> to discover many more workshop ideas that can so easily be expanded into an intergenerational event.

Feel free to call Pam Riedy (866-851-7102) to brainstorm Lenten programming ideas.