

Rhythms of Grace • Lent • Year 2

Theme: Jesus went to the desert to be alone and think. God took care of him.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator: _____

Storyteller: _____

Celebrant: _____

Center Leader: _____

Guide: _____

Items Needed for this Session

Gathering: Quiet reflective music, reading areas, Bibles and Bible storybooks set around room with rugs, pillows or anything else to define self space.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible.

Response Activities:

Labyrinth- finger labyrinths patterns printed on heavy weight paper (see samples in resources) or if you have a purchase finger labyrinth use that.

Crosses- string, pony beads, (instructions in resources)

Stained glass candleholder- glass jars, tissue paper ripped, white glue, water, paint brushes

Prayer walk- masking tape, heart shaped construction paper with short prayers for each stop in the walk

Regathering: Movement prayer song (see session plan)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), Gather our Hearts song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: Jesus Loves Me with hand motions.

Session Plan • Lent • Year 2

Gathering: Participants and leader choose an area with a book. With soft music playing, they quietly look through the stories together.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, storytelling.

Response Activities:

Finger Labyrinth- Participants will try the finger labyrinth with guidance from the center leader.

Stained glass candleholders- Take the tissue paper and using watered glue place the tissue on the glass jar. Cover the jar and explain to participants that they should use this with a battery operated tea candle to pray at home.

Crosses- Sting the beads to make a cross necklace (see instructions in resources)

Prayer walk: Create a path on floor using masking tape. Put an “X” with tape at each stop. Place a heart with a prayer at each “X”. Participant and leader will stop at each “X”, pick up the heart and pray the prayer.

Regathering: Using the hand motions sing together to the tune of “*God is so Good*”

Lord, hear my prayer	<i>Fold hands in prayer</i>
Lord, hear my praise	<i>Raise both hands up over head, palms up, looking up</i>
Grant me Your peace	<i>Slowly lower arms and cross hands over heart</i>
Be with me today	<i>Fold hands in prayer</i>

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God.
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*,
Celebrant provides a blessing:
Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.*”
Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Story Telling • Lent • Year 2

Place the Bible and the Jesus doll by the Storyteller

Our story today is from the Bible (*show Bible*), our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's Son, and of how much God loves us. (*place hands over heart*) Today's story comes from the part of our Bible after Jesus was born. It is called the New Testament.

When Jesus was ready to begin his ministry with us He went to his cousin, John the Baptist to be baptized. Remember we heard the story about Jesus's baptism last year. John baptized Him in the Jordan River. As He came out of the water those around Him heard God say, "This is my son and in Him I am well pleased." Jesus left the river and went into the desert to be alone with God and to pray. He spent 4 days and nights in the desert. He did not work or eat or talk to anyone when He was in the desert but He was not lonely because God was with Him.

We are beginning a season called Lent. In this season we spend time as Jesus did during his time in the desert. We spend time with God, learning about how God and Jesus want us to live. We learn how to be closer to God in quiet and prayer and in practice of our Christian faith. Some of us will take away something like a favorite food during Lent to remind us of Jesus's fasting in the desert. Some of us will add something to our lives to help others, modeling how God wants us to live. The season of Lent, like Jesus's time in the desert, also lasts 40 days and nights. We spend this time so we can get closer to God and Jesus and the way of life that is centered in their love. We as Christians can take our love and share it with others so they will also know the love of God and Jesus. Today in our response we will be trying different ways to get closer to God and Jesus.

Amen.

Continue by explaining the activities