

Walking with Jesus this Lent: A Scriptural Journey, Year B Intergenerational Session

By Jim Merhaut

Time: 120 minutes

Purpose

This faith learning session is designed to walk participants through a series of activities which help them to explore a kernel of truth from Ash Wednesday and the Sundays of Lent. Inspired by the Gospel passages for these Lenten liturgies, the participants will make plans for transforming their lives by incorporating gospel themes into daily living.

Catechism References

CCC #'s 540, 1095, 1438

Session at a Glance

Gathering and Welcome (15 minutes)

Lenten Learning Stations (100 minutes: 7 stations at 13-14 minutes per station)

Closing Prayer and Announcements (5 minutes)

Materials Needed

- Large sandbox filled with play sand
- YouTube video of boys being disciplined with a hug - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnOB_LRqUGI
- Poster board with the following phrases on it:
 - Anger: the emotion that supports evil attacking good
 - Zeal: the emotion that supports good challenging evil
- Modeling clay (one handful per person)
- Pencils for each participant at Station 4
- Two sticks for each family (one 12" long and the other 24" long)
- One piece of rough twine per family (about 12" long)
- Several 3x5 notecards per family (cut in half by cutting along the short edge in the middle to make them 3"x2.5")
- Several single-hole punches
- Ball of yarn
- Several boxes of crayons
- Magician flash paper (one small piece per person)
- Pencils for each family at Station 6
- Candle
- Metal kitchen tongs
- Newsprint and marker

Prepare in Advance

1. Set up seven learning station according to the following instructions:
 - a. Station 1 will include a large sandbox that participants can gather around. There needs to be enough space and enough sand in the box so that each person in the group will have room to play in the sand and draw in the sand simultaneously.
 - b. Station 2 will include enough tables and chairs for participants to sit and draw a picture with paper and crayons.
 - c. Station 3 should be facilitated by a married couple, an engaged couple or two close friends.
 - d. Station 4 will include tables and chairs for participants to work with modeling clay. The Anger/Zeal poster will also be used at this station.
 - e. Station 5 will include tables for the participants to make their crosses and to write and color.
 - f. Station 6 will include a candle for burning flash paper. The facilitator will use kitchen tongs for added safety.
 - g. Station 7 will include newsprint and a marker for the guessing game.
2. Set up tables for refreshments and sign-in. Have one or two people at the sign-in table with the check-in sheet, nametags, and registration information (have a few extra packets on hand for walk-ins). **Hospitality is important!** As the leader, spend the arrival time moving among the participants, greeting and speaking with them.
3. Prepare seven facilitators for the seven stations. Give them the appropriate page from Resource 1: Lenten Learning Stations.

Session Outline

Gathering and Welcome (15 minutes)

After the participants have arrived, offer a warm welcome, make logistical announcements and form groups based upon the following information:

This session is a series of learning stations. The participants will rotate through all seven stations in small intergenerational groups. Divide the participants into seven intergenerational groups. Instruct each group to move to one of the seven learning stations. After the groups are assigned and have moved to their first station, you will rotate them six additional times so that every group experiences every learning station.

There is no opening or closing prayer for this session because prayer and ritual happen within several of the learning stations.

Seven Lenten Learning Stations (100 minutes)

Each station lasts about 13-14 minutes.

Resource 1 contains learning station instructions, separated on individual pages for each station. Print these pages and distribute them to the facilitators of each station to help them prepare for and lead the learning stations.

Closing and Dismissal (5 minutes)

Thank the participants for their contributions at the learning stations. Ask two or three participants to share one insight they gained from the experiences.

Close with any necessary announcements and then dismiss the participants.

Websites and links in this session were accessed successfully on December 6, 2020.

This session was written by Jim Merhaut. Jim is a relationship coach, ministry consultant, writer, retreat director and teacher. He holds a Master of Science degree in Religious Education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He is an author and co-author of several books and dozens of other publications, including the award-winning book, *Your Catholic Family: Simple Ways to Share the Faith at Home*. Jim's most recent book is a collaboration called *Generations Together*. He is a professional musician and recording artist with *JD Eicher and the Goodnights*. Jim and his wife, Debbie, have five children and reside in Ohio where they enjoy vegetable gardening, raising small livestock, and pursuing a simple lifestyle. Jim can be reached at www.CoachingToConnect.com.