

Year A - First Sunday of Lent

Matthew 4:1-11

Ashes Prayer



Overview

- Some children would have taken part in an Ash Wednesday ceremony earlier in the week but possibly not all the children, this prayer helps to look again at Ash Wednesday and engage the children with the special meaning of the day.

You will need

- Roll of paper or paper laid out across the table (like a table-runner).
- Ashes (these do not need to be the blessed ashes from Ash Wednesday, but you can make these by burning newspaper and adding a couple of drops of water)
- Cross and other items to create a prayer space eg candle/bible etc
- Optional: paintbrushes

Set up

- On a table set up the paper as a table runner with 2 bowls of ashes at either end. In the middle set up a prayer space (cross/bible/candle)
- Ask the children to sit in a circle around or nearby the the prayer space. Optional: Make a sign that says 'I am sorry for'
- Once the children are sat down and settled explain to them what they can do.
- Invite the children to take one of the prayer intentions and to spend a moment praying for something they want to say sorry for. They don't have to say it out loud. but something where they have hurt someone or hurt God.
- Once they have done that to come to the table and dip their finger into the bowl of ashes (or use the paintbrushes) and draw a cross on the paper. This is a symbol of Lent where we say sorry for those we have done and draw closer to Jesus.
- Play some Christian music during this time.

