



Lent Learning Activity – “Teach Us O Lord”

Activity Objective

To inspire participants through prayer to participate in the three practices of Lent

This activity works best for the following options:

- ✓ All Ages Opening Learning Experience
- ✓ Opening Prayer
- ✓ Closing Prayer

Supplies and Preparation

- Recruit three readers for the three scripture readings
- Gather three bibles for the readings to be proclaimed from
- Create a prayer center with a symbol for each practice of Lent –perhaps a towel for almsgiving/service, a candle for prayer, and an empty bowl or and Operation Rice Bowl container for fasting

Activity Plan

Leader

We begin our prayer ...
In the name of the God who created us,
In the name of Jesus who redeemed us,
And in the name of the Holy Spirit who sustains us. Amen.

Gathering Song (Choose one your parish is familiar with)

Leader

Generous God, you bless us with this season of Lent that we might open ourselves to the grace of your presence through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Give us the courage we need to be faithful to your call,
As we make this prayer in the name of Jesus your risen Son. Amen

Reader One - Matthew 21:17-22

“He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there. In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, ‘May no fruit ever come from you again!’ And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, ‘How did the fig tree wither at once?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, “Be lifted up and thrown into the sea”, it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.’ ”

The Word of the Lord.

Leader

We pray.

Your response is **“Lord, teach us to pray.”**

Lord, free us so that we are not stuck in our weaknesses, addictions, prejudices and illusions . . . **“Lord, teach us to pray.”**

Lord, clear away our inner clutter and busy-ness. . .
“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Lord, help us to place our hope and trust in you. . .
“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Lord, help us to make being with you in prayer a priority in our lives. . .
“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Lord, help us to be grateful for the gift of your presence in our lives. . .
“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Reader Two - John 12:21-26

“They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who

hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.”

The Word of the Lord

Leader

We pray.

Your response is **“Lord, teach us to serve.”**

Lord, help us to recognize you in all whom we meet...

“Lord, teach us to serve.”

Lord, bless us with courage to advocate for the poor and those being treated unjustly...

“Lord, teach us to serve.”

Lord, help us to put the needs of others above our own needs...

“Lord, teach us to serve.”

Lord, give us the patience to seek first to understand then to be understood...

“Lord, teach us to serve.”

Lord, bless us with compassion to love the world as you love it...

“Lord, teach us to serve.”

Reader Three – Matthew 6.16-21

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Word of the Lord.

Leader:

We pray.

Your response is **"Lord, teach us to fast."**

Lord, help us to clear our lives of all the "stuff" that take us away from you...

"Lord, teach us to fast."

Lord, help us to celebrate that our true treasure is our relationship with you...

"Lord, teach us to fast."

Lord, help us to purify our minds and bodies through fasting that we might have more space for you...

"Lord, teach us to fast."

Lord, help us to use our time, talents, and treasures to build up your kingdom...

"Lord, teach us to fast."

As we continue to place our trust in God, we turn to God praying in the words that Jesus himself gave us to pray: **"Our Father . . ."**

Leader: Closing Prayer

May we give glory to God through our practice of fasting this Lenten season. AMEN

May we give glory to God through our practice of prayer this Lenten season. AMEN

May we give glory to God through our prayer of service this Lenten season. AMEN.

And we close our prayer in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, AMEN.