

Leaning Season 3

Lent 2020 St Luke's Anglican Church, Anglican Network in Canada
Encouragement for Households with Children to **Lean** into Jesus!

A Morning Prayer:

Good morning Lord God!

Thank You for Your love. Thank You for each other. Help us please You today!
Fill our hearts and home and lives with Your light we pray, and drive out all darkness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the Light! Amen.

See also the new Book of Common Prayer for short services for families, morning, noon and evening—p.67 on.

<http://bcp2019.anglicanchurch.net/>

We want to lean into Jesus! We've learnt about God's delight in us, and as we come into Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday, we'll be taking in again how He loves us so much, He gave His only begotten Son to die in our place. We want to grow in delighting in Him, trusting in Him. To trust Him, we need to listen to Him! To know and believe what He says more than we know and believe what others say—even our own hearts!

So this week we'll hear from Jesus how we need to pay attention to Him. All through the day, consciously choose to feed on His words so that your mind and life are being transformed to line up with the true deepest reality. That may mean less news and more worship! Breathe in His life, breathe out any anxiety or frustration—to Jesus on the cross who can take it all—and who gives us His peace!

Are you getting a rhythm going? **Keep trying!** Patterns help us all adapt, feel secure and begin again, because they give us a re-entry point. Do you have a downtime? Learning time? Altogether and separate times? **As the adult, you pick times to restart and invite everybody to jump in!**

Theme days! Redo some favourites, try new ones.

You can set up a rotation of 3 or 4 theme days—or just pick one and try it. Do silly as well as serious, household helping and heart to heart sharing too. Go back over the last 2 newsletters for ideas if want some inspiration!

Talking about It!

How is your child doing at understanding what's going on? Notice what they're saying and not saying. Are they asking questions or just internalizing? As you recognize their confusion or fears, their denial or curiosity, pray about it. You don't have to do this alone!

How are you doing yourself? Acknowledge that God has promised He is on the throne, and that even though humanity has given Satan rule over our world, we are fully and finally in God's hands. Jesus is our rescuer and whether we live or die, we are the Lord's!

[Isaiah 6:1, Rev 1:4-6,



Galatians 1:4, Romans 14:8, etc] God can and does use whatever comes at us to help us grow up as His children, into His likeness!

Age-Appropriate Truth with Hope!

Be ready to respond casually as opportunities happen, but you can also choose a fuller time-limited discussion—and then tell your child we can talk about it then. That helps both of you go back to peace and what you can control!

The basics: You've probably already had this talk! But repetition is so good for the youngest. Something like, "There's a big sickness (virus) going around. Like when we (give an example) had the flu, but worse. We can help keep it from spreading by staying home, keeping very clean



and staying a ways away from others. This is hard! But we can keep choosing to love and do this good.” Move to our hope in God: “God has

a plan for us! Smart people are working hard on it, and we can pray for them and do our part too!”
More on talking and staying in hope next time.

A Devotion and Activity to help in listening to Jesus from Mark 5.

Intro: Say, ‘Jesus is the rescuer. Not just from sickness we can see, but also from sickness we can’t always see: sin and the sickness of being far from God who made us and loves us.’

On a separate day or with older kids, you could also look at [Galatians 1:3-5](#). Talk about why God doesn’t just fix everything. People have to choose God because He is good and the creator, not just to get what we want!

Read the whole story of Jesus, and Jairus and his Daughter from a children’s Bible or [Mark 5:21-24, 35-43](#) [take turns reading out loud or let younger readers read the spoken words] or read it ahead and tell it in your own words.

FOCUS:

v.36 (NIV) Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, **“Don’t be afraid; just believe.”**



Which picture goes with which line?

Do we have to listen to everything others say? [Line 1](#)

Who can tell us what is right and true? [Line 2](#)

What can we stop doing? [Line 3](#)

What do we do instead? [Line 4](#)

How can we believe Jesus right now? In the night? Tomorrow?

Variations:

Say the verse together. Come up with actions for each line, and practice them.

Suggestions: Cover your ears for line 1; point to wounds in the wrists, then bring your hand close to your mouth for line 2; make a big downward moving X with your forearms for *don't*, then act scared for line 3; then look up and stretch your arms open and back for line 4.

Then try saying it leaving words out for the kids to fill in, you just doing all the actions!

Say half the verse together making it personal. “We’re not afraid. We believe Jesus!”

Talk about the kinds of situations where fear tries to get you. What exactly can you do or think instead? Talk about ways to give Jesus your fear and pay attention to Him.

Practice this by singing together “Be Still and Know that I Am God” or “Be Still and Behold Him” (by Paul Baloche) on YouTube

Use the big words and pictures on the next pages—cut them out and match them up!

PALM SUNDAY IS COMING!

Do one of the two crafts attached to make your own palms. There’s a colouring picture too.

Read the Gospel together on Sunday or share it with your church family online. Then do your own Palm Sunday “Welcome King Jesus” walk on Sunday morning! Wave or just carry your palms and jackets; even use pine tree branches! Be ready to tell people, “It’s Palm Sunday! We’re welcoming Jesus!” You can sing “Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to the King of Kings!,” play it or just say some Hosannas. Tell out, “Jesus, You are the true King! We welcome You here’ on your street and on your home turf.

Make extra palms to decorate your windows or doors.

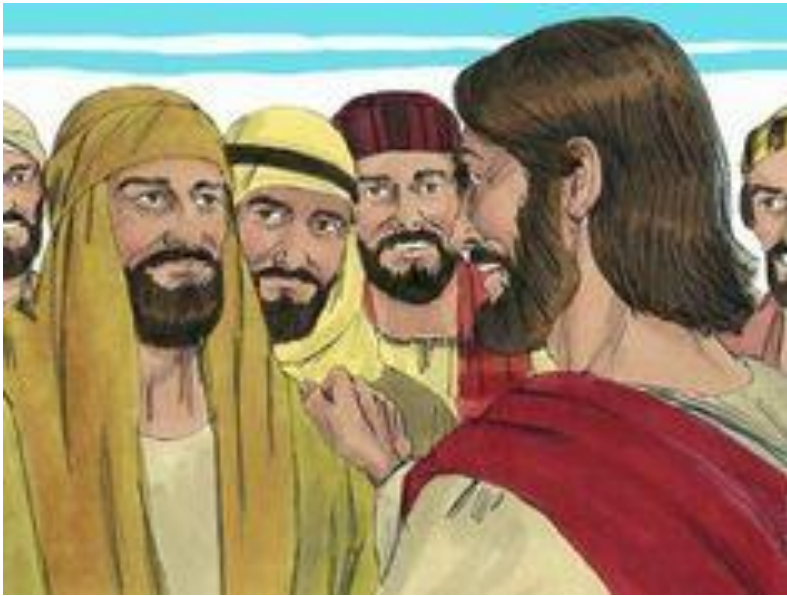
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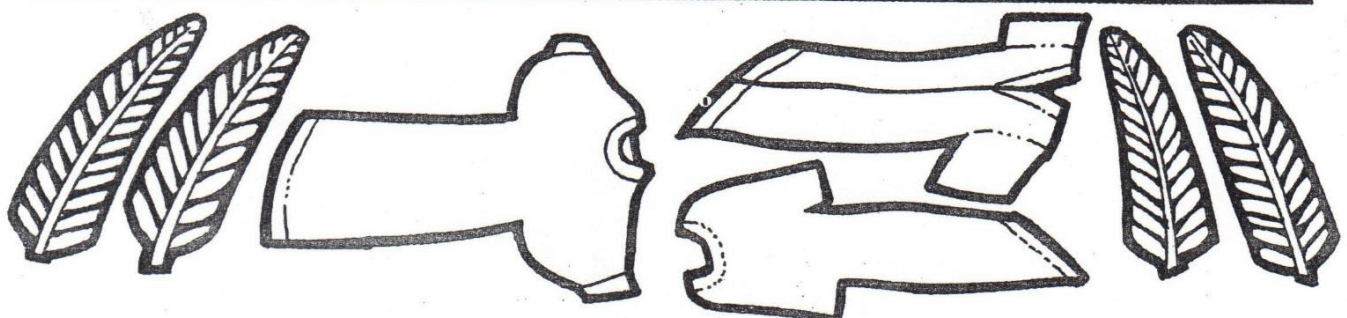
just BELIEVE.”

Mark 5:26





WARNER BANGA



Read the Gospel or tell the story as the children colour the whole picture. Then they can cut out and paste on the clothes and palms to show what happened!
Talk about: Jesus is worthy of all worship! Are we welcoming Jesus as the Saviour?
As the true King?