

[Lent/Easter and Pentecost Resources](#)

Adult Bible and Small Group Studies

A Clearing Season: Reflections For Lent by Sarah Parsons. Upper Room Books, 2005.

Sarah Parsons invites readers to look within and develop an approach to the Lenten journey that is authentic, fresh, and relevant. The reflection questions, group exercises, and appendix of suggested Lenten practices make this book a great resource for groups or individuals seeking deeper experiences and growth.

At One with Jesus: Rediscovering the Secret of Lectio Divina by Clifford E. Bajema. CRC Publications, 1998. This resource provides an excellent guide to this proven method of devotional reading of God's Word. It allows you to discover how the discipline of meditation, prayer, and contemplation can fill your Bible reading with the vigor, power and meaning. Six-sessions.

Companions in Christ: Exploring the Way by Marjorie J. Thompson.

Upper Room Books, 2004. An introduction course for those who have little or no knowledge of spiritual formation practices and concepts. Leader and participant guides.

Companions In Christ: The Way of Grace by Marjorie J. Thompson. Upper Room Books, 2004. Fourth in a series of spiritual formation, this course invites you to travel with eight Bible characters who discover God's grace through encounters with Christ.

Don Postema Books. We want to be the best disciples for Christ. Sometimes we try so hard, we face burnout. Use these "tried and true" resources by Don Postema to draw closer to God and experience Christ anew.

Catch Your Breath-God's Invitation To Sabbath Rest. CRC Publications, 1997. This classic is filled with practical exercises and biblical and literary passages for reflection and discussion on the theme of Sabbath Rest. Discussion questions included.

Space For God-Study and Practice of Spirituality and Prayer. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 1997. This updated resource is about the study and practice of spirituality and prayer drawn from scripture and literary passages. Ten sessions

Faith Lessons: On the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah. Focus on the Family, Zondervan, 1997, 1998. Filmed in Israel, teacher/historian Ray Vander Laan takes you to ancient times, places and customs, and uses scripture to reveal keen insights for our real-life faith applications. 10 sessions, videos, participant and leader guides.

Four-Dimensional Jesus: Seeing Jesus Through the Eyes of Matthew, Luke

And John by John Timmer. Faith Alive Christian Resource, 2001. Thirteen study sessions examining the multifaceted portrait of Jesus in the Gospels. Leader's Guide.

The Good and Beautiful Community: Following The Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love by James Bryan Smith. InterVarsity Press. 2010. Third in the apprentice series, this book shows us how to bring spiritual formation and community engagement together and live as apprentices of Christ. Group exercises and reflection and discussion questions are important elements in this resource.

The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love With The God Jesus Knows by

James Bryan Smith. InterVarsity Press. 2008. This is the first in a series of books designed to guide readers in an apprenticeship with

Jesus recognizing we follow Jesus to become more like him. This book looks at our competing narratives about God and tests them against the God Jesus reveals. Group exercises and discussion and reflection questions included. To learn about the apprentice approach to spiritual formation go to www.apprenticeofJesus.org.

The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting On The Character of Christ by James Bryan Smith. InterVarsity Press. 2009. Second in the apprentice series, this book walks through the “Sermon on the Mount,” Matthew 5-7, taking seriously the teachings of Jesus as something his apprentices will be able to do. Group exercises, reflection and discussion questions are important elements in this resource on spiritual formation.

Gospeled Lives: Encounters with Jesus, A Lenten Study by John Indermark.

Upper Room Books, 2008. Indermark intentionally uses the term “gospeled” to describe lives profoundly affected by encounters with Jesus. Our author skillfully uses storytelling, reflections on 30 gospel stories and artfully crafted exercises to offer opportunities for participants to be gospeled again, in encountering the living Christ. Six-week group or individual study with five daily readings and exercises, leader’s guide included for a weekly group study.

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey. Zondervan, 1998. Compare 24 well and little known film portraits of Jesus with the Jesus of the Bible. Strip away layers of tradition, stereotypes and clichés, and gain new confidence in the Person of Christ. Video, soft-covered book, leader and participant guides.

Jubilee: Luke’s Gospel for the Poor by Dale Lindsay Morgan. Presbyterian Women’s *Horizon* Bible Study, 2008. Using familiar Luke passages, consider the many ways that Christ’s jubilee

message turned the world upside down; exalting the poor, including outsiders and bringing the love of God to all. Nine Sessions.

The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Transforming Today

by John Ortberg with Stephen and Amanda Sorenson. Zondervan, 2004.

Six-session curriculum overflowing with exercises on the spiritual disciplines

including prayer, confession, servanthood, and reflection. DVD, leader and participant guides.

Nooma Film DVD Series by Rob Bell. Zondervan Publishing.

High School though adults, although some films are more appropriate for adults. **Nooma** is a series of short modern day parables put to film (11-14 minutes) that explore our world from the perspective of Christ. Here are a few titles that work particularly well at this time of year.

Corner, 2009 Why is it that often when we get what we want we still feel empty? We need to give up self and find joy in helping others.

Luggage, 2004 This modern day parable centers on forgiveness and what we can learn from this thought-provoking DVD.

Matthew, 2006 When we deal with the loss of someone, we often are lost ourselves. Jesus can lead us through the darkest times.

Shells, 2008 In all the business of life, what are you really doing with your time? Often we feel compelled to say "yes" to doing some really good things. Is it O.K. to ever say "No"?

Tomato, 2008 We are taught our value comes from how smart, good and skilled we are. Jesus invites us to let that part of us die and find our worth from what we say and do through him.

Parables and Passion: Jesus' Stories For The Days Of Lent by

John Indermark. Upper Room Books, 2006. The book allows reflections on one parable each day, arranged around the weekly themes of Simple Gifts, Studies in Contrast, Attending To Creation, Responsible Relationships, Customs and Choices, and Upside Down, Inside Out. Leader's Guide for six-week study included.

Prayer: Does it Make a Difference? by Phillip Yancey, Participant Guide written by Stephan and Amanda Sorenson. Small Group Edition, Zondervan, 2001. Does prayer change us or God? Or both? In six thought-provoking and inspiring sessions, award winning author Phillip Yancey helps you and your group explore and experience the very heartbeat-the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing and deeply rewarding aspect of our relation with God-prayer. 90 min. DVD, Leader and Participant Guides

Children and Youth Curriculum/Resources

Before and After Easter by Debbie Trafton O'Neal. Augsburg Fortress, 1992. Activities and ideas from Lent to Pentecost. Full color illustrations of crafts, service projects and family worship ideas are included.

The Book of Uncommon Prayer: Contemplative and Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry by Steven L Case. Youth Specialties, 2002.

This resource is totally relevant to youth and includes a Good Friday service and responsive readings and prayers for Easter.

Celebrate Easter: Easy Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children

by Abingdon Press, 2002. This resource includes a full length play for middle school youth, a worship program for grades three on up and more dramas and recitations for preschoolers and elementary students. Reproducibles included.

God's Kids Celebrate: Sunday School Activities for All Seasons
by

Sherilyn Johnson Burgdorf. This resource includes Sunday school opening activities, a step-by-step 45-minute session for intergenerational learning, crafts, projects, and more. Lent, Easter and Pentecost are covered. Includes reproducibles.

God Loves Me Stories by Patricia L. Nederveld. CRC Publications, 1998. These storybooks are two from the 52 books in the ***God Loves Me*** series. Each book retells a Bible story in simple language that children, ages two and three can understand. There are suggestions for an opening and closing and up to five activities/follow-up play to reinforce the story.

Hosanna! The Story of Palm Sunday

Goodbye-for Now: The Story of Jesus' Return

to Heaven

An Insider's View of Jesus by Todd Temple. Youth Specialties, 2003. Interactive curriculum uses clips from ***Fish Eyes On Stage*** to examine discipleship.

Junior/Senior High

Fish Eyes On Stage. Ted and Lee Theater Works, 2001. Film version of the Ted and Lee stage show that tells biblical stories of following Jesus through the eyes of the disciples Andrew and Peter. Junior/Senior High

Family Countdown to Easter by Debbie Trafton O'Neal.

Augsburg Fortress, 1998.

A good resource for any church leader packed with crafts, recipes, activities and information.

Mission: Easter-Youth Programs and Ideas for Lent by Todd Outcast.

Abingdon Press, 2005. This resource will help youth ministry and church school leaders prepare lessons and activities that will teach youth to better understand and observe this sacred time. Seven lessons include two dramas, three mini-programs and ideas for worship and retreat.

Praying in Color-Kid's Edition by Sybil MacBeth. Paraclete Press, 2009. This is the kid's edition and introduces young people to an active, visual and meditative prayer practice. It offers adults a new way to help children experience prayer.

Seasons of Celebration-Prayers, Plays, and Projects for the Church Year,

Pre-School to Middle School by Patricia Mathson. Ave Maria Press, 1995. Perhaps you'd like to hold a reconciliation or resurrection prayer service. Maybe a diamante poem, an intention tree or a new life wreath will help children and youth understand the meaning of Lent and Easter. This resource has a good collection of new and exciting ideas, activities and crafts sure to make this time of year very special.

Teaching Prayer in the Classroom: Experiences for Children and Youth

by Delia Halverson. Abingdon Press, 2003. In this revised and expanded edition, Halverson provides leaders with step-by-step activities that engage youth in different prayer experiences, while providing specific examples of age-appropriate prayers for preschoolers to twelve-year olds. There is guidance for incorporating this topic into existing church school lessons.

Theme Day Treats by Shirley Stevens. Educational Ministries, Inc., 1993. For those special times of the year, Stevens has created 36 themes and 200 learning center activities divided up into three themes for each month of the year, with an opening, closing and four learning center options per theme. This curriculum emphasizes creative active experiences, promotes integrated learning and encourages more adult and youth interactions. Elementary grades.

Walk With Me Lent/Easter Units, Faith Alive Christian Resources

Each of these units contains all you will need for two weekly sessions: large and small group studies for grades K-8, two dramas, songs, complete Palm Sunday and/or Easter programs, crafts, games, a CD and all reproducibles.

Book 1-2004 ***King Jesus***

Book 2-2005 ***The Lamb of God***

Book 3-2007 ***He's Alive!***

Book 4- 2007 ***Were You There?***

More Resources to Enhance Your Ministry-Intergenerational

Creative Ideas for Lent-Volumes One, Two and Three edited by Linda and Robert Davidson, Educational Ministries, 1985, 1995. These three volumes provide a plethora of stories, activities, crafts, plays, skits, worship services, devotions, learning centers, all church events and projects that will enrich the lives of children, youth and adults. Resources can be mixed and matched to plan a meaningful Lenten season for your congregation.

The Easter Story A-Z. Educational Ministries, Inc., 1994. Great intergenerational/family event, church school program and congregational worship experience that includes banner patterns, story script and worship outline.

Exploring the Labyrinth: A Guide For Healing and Spiritual Growth by Melissa Gayle West. Broadway Books, 2000. What is a labyrinth and why does it have such astonishing contemporary appeal? You'll be introduced to walking and working with this ancient archetype.

Labyrinths From the Outside In-Walking to Spiritual Insight, A Beginner's Guide by Donna Schaper and Carole Ann Camp. Skylight Paths Publishing, 2001. This resource explains the practice and takes you through walks that celebrate the rites of passage, the seasons of the year and the church year. Walks include the Lenten season and Easter. Discover or rediscover this special form of prayer and meditation.

Fifty Ways For Fifty Days by Phyllis Vos Wezeman. Educational Ministries, Inc., 1990. Creative activities for Easter through Pentecost that include dramas, crafts, food and games.

Ideas A-Z-Easter by Phyllis Wezeman, Anna Liechty and Judith Chase. Educational Ministries, Inc., 1994. The A-Z topics offer a balanced variety of methods and approaches for experiencing the Biblical story. For each letter of the alphabet, there is a different theme and a different way of exploring that theme, like puppetry, music, drama, games and storytelling.

Jesus, The Man Who Changed History by Meryl Doney. A Lion Book Publishing, 1988. This resource is full of facts about Jesus, his land, culture and more-great supplement for a class or an intergenerational event.

Lent: The Season of Sacred Stories by Elaine Ward. Educational Ministries Inc., 1990. These sacred stories reveal spiritual truths and can be used as sermons, in class discussions, retreat settings and Lenten studies.

Pentecost Alphabet, edited by Phyllis Vos Wezeman, Educational Ministries, 1998.

This resource contains learning experiences for all ages that cover 26 topics, one for each letter of the alphabet. Activities cover auditory, visual and kinesthetic learning styles. They can enhance and supplement existing curricula and be used in worship and outreach planning.

Praying In Color-Drawing a New Path to God by Sybil Macbeth. Paraclete Press, 2007. Praying in color introduces an active, visual and meditative prayer practice. It involves a re-entry into the childlike world of coloring and improvising. The product is a visual reminder of the time you spent in prayer. Jr. High through adult.

Seasons of Faith: Teaching the Christian Year for Intergenerational Use

by Marcia Joslin Stoner. Abingdon Press, 2003. This book contains information, crafts and activities for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, Ascension Sunday and Pentecost. Includes a six-week Lenten study.

The Time of Jesus by Lois Rock. Lion Children's Books. This resource is designed to help you recreate Jesus' world in Palestine, with 20 crafts and cooking activities, clothes and food, and familiar objects from the home, school and synagogue. Each is set alongside an episode of Jesus' life, and when used in total create a complete picture of Jesus' life and teaching.

Worship Resources

Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of The Synoptic Gospels by Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr., Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992. This side-by-side comparison of the events recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke make no attempt to force the gospel events to

conform to an interpreter's suggested time line. Instead you make your own assessment of how the gospels agree with, complement, and/or differ from each other. This revised fifth edition has more textual notes, a new easy-to-use page design, enlarged print and a new, improved system of comparison.

Praising God Through the Living Arts by Linda M. Cohen.

Abingdon Press, 1999. This resource includes scripture interpretations, drama, clowning, storytelling, Liturgical dance and choral scripture readings. There is a drama and movement for Palm Sunday that includes children, liturgical dance and movement for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost and Maundy and Good Friday services.

Present On Earth: Worship Resources on the Life of Christ by John Bell.

GIA Publications, Inc., 2002. The prayers, dialogues, meditations and worship ideas in the book cover the three years of Christ's earthly ministry.

Reaching For Rainbows by Ann Weems. The Westminster Press, 1980.

Weems includes in her poems and litanies a Pentecost worship service.

Stages On the Way-Worship Resources for Lent, Holy Week and Easter by

The Iona Community. Wild Goose Worship Group, 2000. This unique resource provides innovative and highly participatory litanies, meditations, monologues, poems, prayers, readings, scripts and symbolic actions that take us to the cross and the experience of Easter.

The Storyteller's Companion to the Bible: Stories about Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels. Volume Nine by editors Dennis E. Smith and Michael E Williams.

Abingdon Press, 2005. This volume brings to life the first three Gospels in preaching and teaching. The writers interpret twenty-five stories that range from the genealogy of Christ to the crucifixion and the empty tomb.

Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV-Year A

by Walter Brueggemann, Charles B. Cousar, Beverly R. Gaventa and James D. Newsome. Westminster John Knox Press, 1995. This volume provides resources for an entire year of sermons and offers practical help for preachers and others who use the Common Lectionary. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are included.

Touch Holiness: Resources For Worship edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. The Pilgrim Press, 1990. Based on the lectionary and liturgical year, this resource has a section on Lent and Easter and also has a Pentecost Sunday.