

**United Tribes: Lenten Lessons**  
**Learning about the life of Jesus and how to celebrate lent.**  
**2-3 Florida Gators West Wing**  
**4-5 Peace People Youth Room**  
**K-1 United Marines Story Teller's Tent then Drama Room.**

United tribes will celebrate Lent by studying the life of Jesus and developing some Lenten rituals to remind them that at UCG this is a time of learning, reflection, and loving one another. They will hear the story of the life of Jesus and learn a song to be sung as a prayer for Lent. They will hear Jesus' commandment to love one another and they will make Lenten Gift boards to share their gifts with others weekly. They will hear how Jesus healed a bent over woman and participate in role plays. They will follow the way of the cross through the holy days of Jesus' life and make palm crosses.

Supplies: (Heidi will provide your supplies, they will be waiting for you in your room).

Story pictures with story on back.

Copy of song from Hymnal.

Scratch Paper

Marker for names

Sun Catchers and paint

Ribbon for hanging.

**I. Transition**

Guide holds up flag/clip board with class sign and greets each child in the Sanctuary and then walks them to their assigned rooms.

**II. Opening lead by Guide (9:45)**

- Invite the group to get their name tags and sit in a circle on their rugs or the couches. Take role, and check in with the kids.
- Have the kids do their cheer. They will be demonstrating it before the church in a month.
- Anything they want to share. Celebrations or concerns.

**III. Lesson lead by Guest Teacher (10:00 am)**

Introduce yourself to the kids.

Ask them to share with you about 1 or 2 of their charms on their lanyards and how they got them.

Tell the children that you are there to teach them about Lent.

Ask the children, "Do you know what Lent means?"

Tell the children the word Lent comes from a word that means "spring" or "springtime". Taken literally, the word means that this is the time of the year when the days lengthen.

In Christian Churches Lent marks the period before Easter.

Here at UCG we use this time for reflection and learning.  
Today we are going to learn about the life of Christ and then we are going to learn a reflective song we can sing as a prayer during Lent.  
Using the story provided read the story (on the back of the pictures) to the children and share the pictures of the Life of Christ.  
Tell the children that Jesus was Jesus' name – and that Christ is a word that means “The Anointed One”. It was a title given to Jesus when people recognized what a holy person he was. It's like Rev. for ministers, Dr. for Doctors, only even more special, because Jesus is the only person we call the Christ. Sometimes people use all those words: Jesus, Christ, or Jesus Christ.

#### **VI. Song lead by Guest Teacher (10:10 am)**

Teach the children the song, “Spirit of the Living God”.  
The song is in the Black Hymnal #283 and copies will be available in my box Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Words:

#### **Spirit of the Living God**

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Author: Daniel Iverson

Add in the hand motions with hands lifted for “Spirit of a living God” and resting on chest for rest of song.

Examples of the song:

<http://www.viadecristo.lv/eng/dievagars1.html>

<http://my.homewithgod.com/heavenlymidis2/spirit.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRlyMax9HIU&feature=related>

Tell the children that everyone here at UCG will be using this song as a daily prayer for reflection and meditation during Lent.  
Encourage the children to say the prayer each night before they go to bed.  
Tell the children that their guide will ask next week and see who has remembered to say the prayer each night.

#### **V. Prayer reminders lead by Guest Teacher**

Help the children paint a cross sun catcher to hang in their room during lent to remind them to sing a prayer each night.

Have children use the paints to color their sun catchers.

**Important: Have them work on top of a piece of scratch paper and be sure to put their name on the paper. The paint takes a while to dry and the sun catcher needs to remain flat. Children should take home their sun catchers. After class have children carry their crosses to Activity Time and put them on the table right outside Room 9.**

**VI. Closing circle (Lead by Guides 10:40)**

Include a short review of the day's discussion and activities. The guide asks each child to complete the sentence "Today I learned \_\_\_\_\_".

**VII. Closing prayer lead by guide.** Guides ask the children to sing the Lenten prayer song with you that they just learned.

**VIII. Dismissal**

Please have the children line up and walk nicely out to activity time with their sun catchers. Children should be dismissed to the playground no earlier than 10:30 and no later than 10:45.

Lesson created from 2010 UCG Children's Lenten Brainstorming Team composed of Vince Amlin, Tracy Bachman, Larry Reimer, Sandy Reimer, and Heidi Stein.

Story pictures and words adapted from the books:

Meet Jesus The Life and Lessons of a Beloved Teacher written by Lynn Tuttle Gunney  
And The Light of the World The Life of Jesus for Children written by Katherine Paterson  
and Illustrated by Francois Roca.

**Older Children**

- #1 This is the story of Jesus, a beloved teacher. Although he lived long ago, his lessons of love and kindness still bring hope and joy to people all over the world.
- #2 Joseph grew up in Nazareth with his brothers and sisters. Joseph and Mary raised Jesus in the traditions of their Jewish faith. When Jesus grew up, he began to travel the countryside and tell people his ideas about living together in peace and harmony. Soon crowds gathered to hear him preach. People who were sick often came to him, he helped them feel better. News of Jesus as a healer and teacher spread.
- #3 Jesus did not do this work alone. A group of men and women traveled with him. He chose twelve friends called disciples, to help him teach his ideas. Together they walked from village to village, sharing their new ideas with anyone who wanted to listen.
- #4 Jesus often told stories, or parables, to teach people about God. One day he told this parable: "Once there was a shepherd who looked after a flock of one hundred sheep. When the shepherd noticed that one little lamb was missing, he was very

- upset. Leaving the flock, the shepherd searched high and low from dawn to dusk. When he finally found the lost lamb, he was filled with joy. ”This parable helped Jesus explain how God loves and cares for each one of us, just like the shepherd loves and cares for each one of his sheep.
- #5 Mothers and fathers brought their children to meet Jesus. At first, the disciples waved them away, worried that the children would bother Jesus. But, Jesus gathered the children around him and blessed them. “Let the little children come to me,” he said.
- #6 Jesus believed we should love one another, even people who aren’t our friends. “Treat everyone the way you would like them to treat you,” he taught. “Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.” One of the disciples asked, “What if someone treats me badly? How many times should I forgive- seven times?” Jesus answered, “No, not seven times, but seventy times seven times!” Jesus meant that we should always forgive one another, just as God forgives us.
- #7 Most people were amazed by Jesus, words and his acts of healing. “Surely,” they said, “this man could not do the things he does unless God was with him”. But others were angry about the things Jesus said and did. “It’s against the law for someone to call himself the ‘Son of God,’” they said. “Anyone who does that should die.”
- #8 Once the disciples knew that others disapproved of Jesus, they were worried. When they gathered for their Passover meal that year, Jesus blessed the bread and wine and gave thanks to God. “May peace be with you,” he said to the disciples. Jesus asked them to remember him and his lessons, no matter what happened. The disciples did not understand what Jesus meant. They could not believe Jesus was telling them he was going to die.
- #9 After this Last Supper, Roman Soldiers arrested Jesus, saying that he was stirring up trouble. In those days, the worst criminals were punished by being nailed to a wooden cross and left to die. The Governor punished Jesus in this terrible way. As Jesus suffered on the cross, his mother, Mary, and his friends gathered at his side. They knew Jesus had done nothing wrong. They were filled with sadness.
- #10 After Jesus died, his followers carried on his teachings and honored his memory. Jesus’ message of love and kindness spread throughout the world. Now, two thousand years later, we can still learn from the life and lessons of Jesus. Some people say that Jesus was the son of God. They say that after Jesus died, God resurrected him, or brought him back to life. They say that Jesus was a wise and beloved teacher, whether or not he was the son of God. They say it is important to remember him because he taught us to treat people with love and to stand up for justice and peace.

## Younger Children

- #1 This is the story of Jesus, a beloved teacher. Although he lived long ago, his lessons of love and kindness still bring hope and joy to people all over the world.
- #2 Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Joseph and Mary raised Jesus in the traditions of their Jewish faith. When Jesus grew up, he began to tell people about living together in peace and harmony. People gathered to hear him. People who were sick often came to him, he helped them feel better. News of Jesus as a healer and teacher spread.
- #3 Jesus did not do this work alone. He chose twelve friends called disciples, to help him teach his ideas. Together they walked from village to village, sharing their new ideas with anyone who wanted to listen.
- #4 Jesus told people that God loves and cares for each of us. He said, "God loves and cares for each of us just like a Sheppard who loves and cares for one hundred sheep. When one little lamb is missing, he is sad. He will search high and low from morning until night. When he finds the lost lamb, he is happy."
- #5 Mothers and fathers brought their children to meet Jesus. At first, the disciples waved them away, worried that the children would bother Jesus. But, Jesus gathered the children around him and blessed them. "Let the little children come to me," he said.
- #6 Jesus believed we should love one another, even people who aren't our friends. "Treat everyone the way you would like them to treat you," he taught. "Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself."
- #7 Most people were amazed by Jesus. "Surely," they said, "this man could not do the things he does unless God was with him". But others including religious leaders were upset with Jesus. He did these amazing things at times and in places that were different than what they were used to.
- #8 Jesus and his friends gathered for Passover supper. A special meal that people of the Jewish faith had each year. The disciples were worried because some people were upset with Jesus. Jesus asked them to remember him and his lessons, no matter what happened.
- #9 After the supper, Roman Soldiers arrested Jesus, and took him away. A few days later the Governor sentenced him to die and he was killed.
- #10 After Jesus died, his followers carried on his teachings and honored his memory. They helped Jesus' message of love and kindness spread throughout the world. They say it is important to remember him because he taught us to treat all people with love and to stand up for justice and peace.