



issue 7

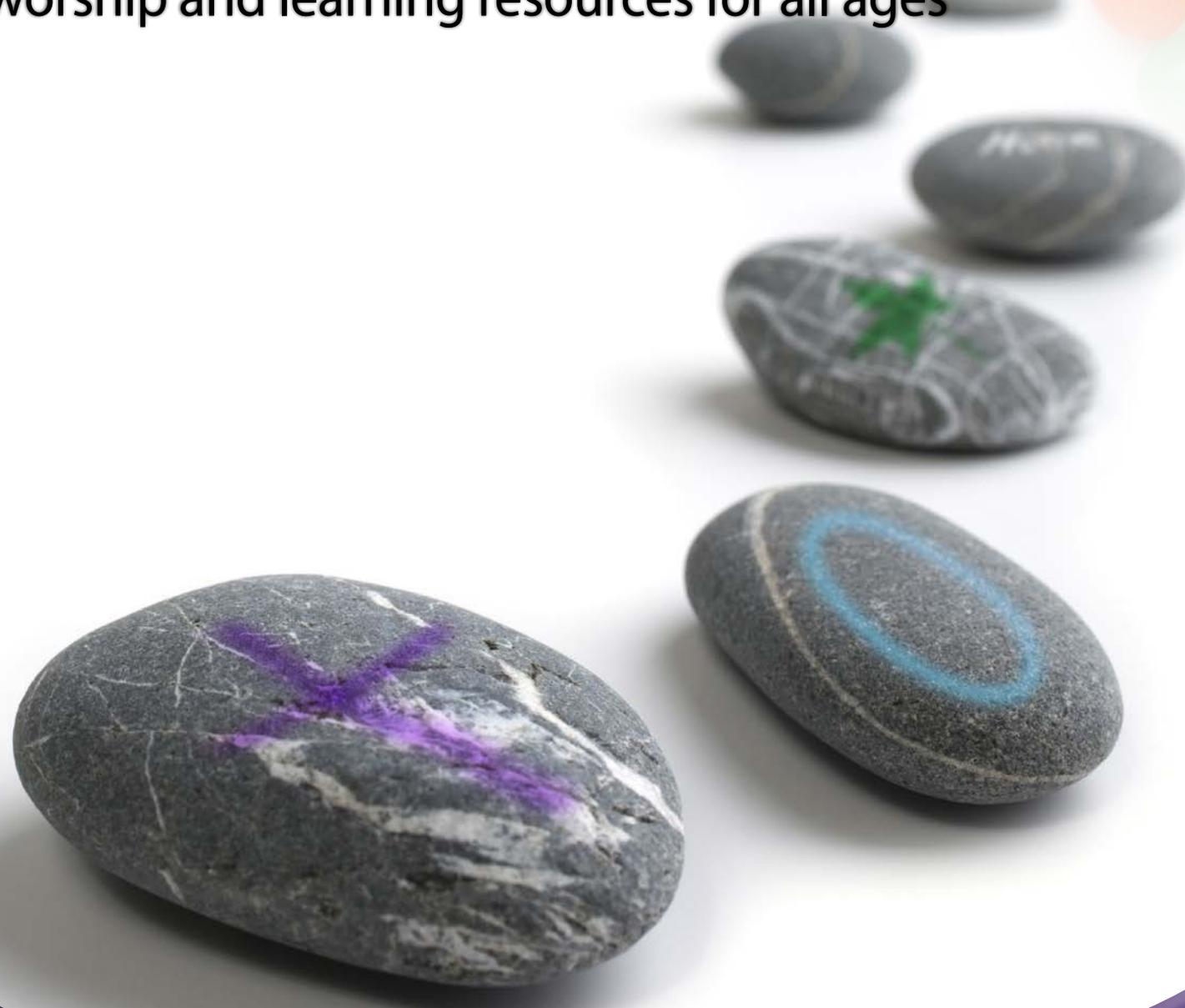
lent, easter to pentecost

17 february 2013 to 19 may 2013

Includes ideas for  
Holy Week 2013

# spill the beans

worship and learning resources for all ages



A lectionary-based  
resource with a Scottish  
flavour for Sunday  
Schools, Junior Churches  
and Worship Leaders

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# ethos

There is a particular ethos behind this material: it's all about **story**. When we spill the beans about anything, we tell the story of what happened and we share the story of what that means for us.

We believe **story is the lifeblood of faith**. In story we can tell the truth and speak with honesty about things for which there are not yet words. Story contains mystery and is the poetry that forms faith. Stories grow as we grow and can reveal new truths at different times in our lives.

So we believe **giving stories** to people is one of the most important things we can do in sharing our faith. Children and adults hold stories in their being and keep coming back to them throughout life. Our culture is stored in story. The same is true for our faith.

We believe in telling story. This material is simply the **retelling of our faith stories**. It always starts with the story each week.

Then each activity is simply a way to engage the story and enable children and adults to imbed the story, capturing different aspects of it, highlighting different images that help us hold the story in our beings.

But we believe these faith stories ought to be able to **mingle with our own life stories**, our day-to-day experiences. So as activities are engaged, it is important to ask people to retell the faith story along with their own story of that week. It's the tangle of life stories with faith stories that perhaps make both real.

We believe **one story is the lens through which we hear other stories**. Faith narratives create a web: if we think about water, then what other stories involving water do we find in the Bible; if we are reflecting on forgiveness, what other stories of forgiveness can we hear. During activities the question ought to be asked: does this story remind you of other stories

in the Bible? Stories don't exist on their own but in a diverse web, each feeding the other.

We believe that **as we grow we reflect in different ways** on the faith stories we hold. Our idea is to invest these stories in people, offering each as a gift of faith. The story may be understood in a literal way during younger years, then with questions about their historical accuracy as people move into teenage years and then move into a third stage where we hear the story again for the first time, but this time holding the meaning, the deep down truth in the story that helps it shape our living and how we understand and engage with the world in justice and in grace. Story holds the faith more honestly and in a much deeper way than any creed and doctrine.

Join us and spill the beans.

## spill the beans team

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For more information and extra materials, join us on the Spill the Beans blog:  
<http://spillbeans.org.uk>

### Key to Abbreviations

In the worship ideas section the following abbreviations are used:

CG	Common Ground
CH4	Church Hymnary, 4th Edition
CH3	Church Hymnary, 3rd Edition
JP	Junior Praise
MP	Mission Praise
SGP	Songs of God's People
WGRG	Wild Goose Worship Group



# using spill the beans contents

**Welcome to the seventh issue of the ongoing experiment called 'Spill the Beans'.** It was always meant to be a wee local idea but it has grown somewhat as a group of people from the Church of Scotland and other denominations have got together to explore Bible passages and write worship and learning resources for their own congregations discovering that this was good fun, triggering imagination and creativity within their congregations.

There is quite a collection of things to use each week. Each piece is written with specific congregations in mind rather than some average android congregation. We even know the names of people who were thought about when the material was put together, how it might sound when it was read or how it might work in a particular congregation. Thus there may be the

need to be a little creative yourselves in adapting and evolving some of the ideas to suit your own place and culture and congregation. That is a good thing.

Of course, if you are creative and you'd like to share what you have done, then we have a place for that on our Blog (<http://spillbeans.org.uk>). There you'll find PowerPoint backgrounds for each week, a live discussion of the passages for that week and how we might be able to adapt and recreate what has been suggested.

But you are not expected to do it all every week. Each piece stands on its own and you just choose which ones you want to do, work best for you and are easier for you to use. Either way, let us know what you think, how you get on and what we can do to help out. Enjoy!

## worship ideas

These are a few ideas that possibly expand upon the story offering words, phrases, poetry and ideas that could be used in some way in worship. They are not to be used exactly as they are but ought to be edited and expanded to suit the culture of your own faith community.

Each week we provide a selection of words, ideas and creative moments to take the theme and the passage a little further. We do not provide a ready made service or perfect prayers but ideas and pointers that hopefully scratch at your own creativity and provoke heaven's imagination within you.

## age group ideas

Here are some helpful tips to guide you in your use of the material in age groups:

1. It presumes some introduction to the story will have taken place in worship together or will play a part in the service when children join it later.
2. Depending on the make-up of your own groups of children you will need to remain flexible in how you use the material.
3. Each idea has been given a guide age range to help your planning, but this is only a guide and your own circumstances may make certain crafts or activities more or less successful.
4. Before the sit-down activities if you have a group of young children or lots of boys, you may want to add a run-around type game before the gathering time to expend some energy.

5. Use the gathering time exercise to get into the story. Begin with a circle where the whole Sunday School is together and do this activity together (gathering time).
6. Then retell the story together (it should have been told already in worship if you begin together there).
7. Follow that by choosing as many or as few activities your space and time allow. You could offer a number of activities each at different stations all at the same time for all ages to self-select with a teacher staffing each one, or have traditional classes.
8. During activities, ask children to retell the story to you and ask about their week, what was happy and what was sad and if this week's story reminds them of other biblical and personal stories.

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9. The intention is not to complete "the task" brilliantly, but rather to provide opportunities to begin conversations, build relationships, retell the story of the day, and talk about what it might have felt like then and what it means for us today.
10. There are numerous websites that will provide handout type sheets that will have images, crosswords and wordsearches for the themes of these weeks. While helpful in a pinch, try not to rely on these!

# through the season

## Introduction

In this section you will find some ideas for scene-setting activities and a weekly visual focus as you move through the season.

These ideas are provided for you to use and adapt depending on the size, shape and layout of your worship space and whether you have access to or expertise in using projected images and audiovisual elements.

These ideas provide possible ways of linking all the weeks together which can be a helpful reminder to people of the thread of the story and the key aspects being focused on during worship.

These ideas can be used independently or together, accumulating over the season, and can also be linked with other elements of the worship material. They can also be adapted to be used within age groups.

## Lent

You will need many pebbles, and depending on how you wish to use this idea, it could be a pebble for everyone every week, or just the children, or each week a different group in the congregation could lead that week's activity.

Each week uses pebbles, painted appropriately and then laid out in the worship space, creating a large circle, or a cairn or by placing the pebbles in significant places such as under windows, by the communion table, and so on. It is up to you how you wish to use it. The painting can be done by a group beforehand or as people gather in the space.

This idea comes together on Easter Day having created a circle, perhaps, a space for resurrection and then inviting people to remove the stones and take them out into the world and leave them as gifts of resurrection in your community.

## Weekly Suggestions

Note these visual actions could be done at the start of worship as people arrive or at another suitable point during the service.

### 17 Feb Lent 1

Bible: Luke 4:1-13  
Title: Words and Worries

Paint a purple cross on pebbles and create a circle with them at the centre of the worship space or leave these in significant places such as at the cross, the bible, pulpit, etc. This could be done at the gathering time or during the first hymn.

### 24 Feb Lent 2

Story: Luke 13:31-35  
Title: The Good Bad News

Paint a circle on each pebble and add them to the outside of the circle created last week or place them in windows around the worship space symbolising a place of care.

### 3 Mar Lent 3

Story: Luke 13:1-9  
Title: Gardeners' Question Time

Paint a leaf on each pebble and add to the circumference circle or place in a circle round the cross or other significant places in the worship space.

### 10 Mar Lent 4

Story: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
Title: Homeward Bound

Paint the word 'Home' on this week's pebbles adding them to the growing circle or place them at the doorway of the church or other significant places.

### 17 Mar Lent 5

Story: John 12:1-8  
Title: Heaven Scent

Put a few drops or perfume of scented oil on the pebbles and place then at the foot of the communion table or add to the enlarging circle.

### 24 Mar Palm Sunday

Story: Luke 19:28-40  
Title: The Stone's Cry

Paint a mouth on the stone or write the word 'Hosanna' signifying the very stones will cry out and place in the circle or place along the pew ends in the aisle.

### 31 Mar Easter Day

Story: John 20:1-18  
Title: Expect the Unexpected

Invite people to write the word 'alleluia' across the stones and then during the service ask people to remove the stones (taking stones from throughout the Lenten season) symbolising the stone rolling from the tomb, and take them out into the world. They might like to leave them scattered around the community as glimpses of Easter for anyone with eyes to see them.



# your notes

## Easter

This is a very straightforward idea that creates a kind of storyboard for the season. Each week a different panel is filled in with images from that week's theme. This could be done by drawing or taking images from the internet, or photographs especially done by a particular group in the congregation.

Use a roll of lining paper and divide it into 6 sections. Write in each section in large letters what week it is: "Easter 2", "Easter 3", and so on. As each week comes, cover the week by pasting on images that help us reflect on what is happening in the story. these could be very contemporary images which might help us contextualise the story in our own time.

Note, if you are taking images from the internet, please make sure you have the appropriate permissions if required.

## Weekly Suggestions

### 7 Apr Easter 2

Story: John 20:19-31  
Title: Doubts and Confirmations  
Images: Hands

Take some photos of your own hands and paste them onto 'Easter 2'. Or take images from the internet or simply draw round hands and colour them in.

### 14 Apr Easter 3

Story: Acts 9:1-20  
Title: Blind Faith  
Images: Light

Use a variety of images that depict 'light'. These could be sunbursts, or eclipses taken from the internet or draw sunbursts or rainbows.

### 21 Apr Easter 4

Story: Acts 9:36-43  
Title: Unbounded New Life  
Images: Healing

These could be NHS logos, bandages, ointments, stethoscopes, doctors, nurses, red crosses, and so on.

### 28 Apr Easter 5

Story: Acts 11:1-18  
Title: No More Them and Us  
Images: Inclusion

These could be photos of people with different nationalities, or maps or flags of countries of the world.

### 5 May Easter 6

Story: Acts 16:9-15  
Title: Gathered at the River  
Images: Purple

Use images of purple cloth or simply paint different shades of purple in today's 'Easter 6' panel.

### 12 May Easter 7

Story: Acts 16:16-34  
Title: Breaking the Chains  
Images: Chains

Use typical images that depict imprisonment: chains, jail cell, metal bars, and/or write 'Freedom' across the panel.

### 19 May Pentecost

Story: Acts 2:1-21  
Title: Get Up and Go  
Images: Doves

Cut out images of doves that could fly out from all the other panels towards the Pentecost panel. Some could be left white, others coloured in to suggest variety and diversity. Add the word 'Peace' to this week's panel.





lent 1

# words and worries

sunday 17 february 2013

luke 4:1-13

## bible notes

### Lead Us Not Into Temptation

“Lead us not into temptation...” are words of Jesus repeated every day by millions of people, including us! But is being tempted necessarily a bad thing? Is it something to be avoided at all costs? Could we say that Jesus’ own temptation in the wilderness was essentially a good thing, even if it was tough? After all, he was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit, not the devil! The experience tested out his motives for his expanding role: were they self-centred or God-centred motives? How prone was Jesus to give into the temptations of living a less-than-full life: one that always put material needs above all else; one that put the desire for self-promotion above the desire to live God-wards?

This story from Luke (however much he may have written it to deliberately make some connections with Israel’s past) also makes it clear that Jesus was a great leader who deliberately went to the place of testing, who stood up to severe temptation and won! Jesus the Messiah was not in it for himself: he was in it for God and for the people, for us.

As his followers, testing and temptation is also something for each of us to take on board, as individuals and congregations. Isn’t that what Lent is about: taking a good look at ourselves, our lives, our passions and testing our motives and aspirations? Asking ourselves how, with the Holy Spirit’s help, we can witness with



integrity and simplicity and not be swayed by over-emphasising numbers (statistics for the church’s annual return, how much of a testing of our motives is that)? Such testing is an intentional action on our part, just as it was for Jesus. Yet, we read in verse 13 that temptation wasn’t a one-off—“well, I’ve ticked the ‘being tempted’ box, what next?”—for it tells us “the devil departed until an opportune time”. This is not over. We still need eyes in the backs of our heads.

“Lead us not into temptation” is however surely an honest plea. Few of us really want to go there into that wild place of pure temptation; Jesus knew how difficult it was and also how it was ever present. Being honest about our resistance (or lack thereof) to being tempted ironically flags up our awareness of it and its dangers. We know that we all have the potential to be a channel for the devil, for evil, whether by action or inaction.

As well as being self-aware, we must also

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2,9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

**Luke 4:1-13**

be alert to other people’s actions that can unwittingly turn us away from God or even blind us from recognising evil, especially when it’s under the cover of good. We only need to think of cases of sexual abuse including by church ministers, priests or celebrities to realise how apparently easy it is for us to be deceived. Opportune times are never far away for ‘the devil’ to reappear.

Is there any good news in this story from Luke? Yes! Did you notice that Jesus was not only led by the Holy Spirit but full of that same Spirit? How did Luke, or anyone else, know? What were the tell-tale signs? Did Jesus look different after his baptism? Perhaps, like Moses coming down the mountain, his face shone brightly? Or was his fullness of Spirit expressed in its fruits: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

What is it like to be full of Holy Spirit? Look no further than Jesus; without that fullness how would he have fared? Without that fullness, how do we fare?

Lent may well be about giving something up but it’s also about opening ourselves up to being filled again with Holy Spirit!

*Image from Time Life Video’s “The Bible - Jesus” in which temptation is depicted alternately as a beautiful woman dressed in red and a slick-haired, Armani-wearing businessman.*

# the story

## In The Desert

Jesus had been in the desert for 40 days (the desert in Israel is rocky, not sandy) and Jesus had been there six weeks, ages.

He was hungry and thirsty and tired and who should appear round a rock but the devil himself.

Jesus and the devil eyed each other up and down they were ready, ready for a good old row.

'Morning Jesus,' said the devil.  
'Morning Satan,' cos that was the devil's name, said Jesus.

'Dare you!' said the devil.  
'Pardon?' said Jesus.

'Dare you,' said the devil.  
'Dare you to pick up a stone and turn it into bread.'

Jesus was quick with a reply:  
'No way,' he said,  
'You need more than bread to live on. I may be hungry but I'm not going to do that.'

They stared at each other.

Then the devil tried again.

'Let's go for a walk up the mountain,' he said.

They stood on the mountain top and looked over the edge.

'Dare you!' said the devil.  
'Dare me what, Satan?' said Jesus.

'Dare you to say that there's no God and that I, Satan, am in charge of the world.'  
'Pardon?' said Jesus.  
'Dare you,' said Satan,  
'and if you admit that I'm in charge of the world, I'll give it to you to rule over.'

Jesus laughed.  
'No deal, Satan,' he said.  
'God's in charge, not you, and you know that's true.'

Satan was cross, very cross.

He'd tried twice to get Jesus to come in with him and Jesus was having none of it.

OK, thought Satan, one last try.  
Third time lucky.

'Lets go to Jerusalem,' he said to Jesus.

So off they went.

Jerusalem is a huge city and the devil took Jesus right to the top of a high tower on a building called the Temple. They looked down, the people in the city looked tiny from where they stood.

'Dare you to jump off!' said the devil.  
'Go on!

If God's looking after you he'll send his angels to catch you, you'll be fine.  
Everyone will be really impressed.

Go on, jump.  
I'll give you a push if you like.'

'No,' said Jesus.  
'I trust God to look after me. I don't have to test him to know that he cares about me. No, Satan, you can jump if you like but I'm not going to.'

The devil had had enough.

Although Jesus was tired and hungry he still knew that God loved him. There seemed to be no way that Jesus would come over to the devil's side.

So the devil went away.

He might come back later and try again, but for now he was beat.

## Retelling for young people

### 40 Days

Can you count?  
You can use your fingers to help.  
Ready?  
Let's go:  
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10.

Okay, that was good.

Can you do 11 to 20?  
Might need to use your fingers and thumbs twice, maybe your toes?  
Ready?  
Let's go:  
11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20.

Okay. Good.

Now lets think about a day.

What time do you usually get up?  
Have breakfast?  
Go to school? Etc.

**Keep going through a typical day. End with the last question:**

How long do you sleep for most nights?

A day is a long time.

Let's count now right through from 1-20  
Ready?  
Let's go  
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,  
11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20.

Brilliant!

There's a story in the bible about Jesus being on his own in the desert for 40 days. The desert is a lonely place, no people, no houses, not much water, lots of stones.

40 days.

That's two times what we counted.

A long time.

Jesus went into the desert to think about the kind of person he wanted to be, and a bad man called the devil asked him questions, and God helped Jesus to answer him.

And after 40 days Jesus came out of the desert, ready to find some friends and work for God.

# worship ideas

## Through the Season

Pages 4 and 5 contain ideas that can be used to help set the scene throughout this season introducing symbolism for the theme being explored this week and encouraging a sense that each week is thematically tied together.

## Gathering Activity

As people gather ask them to consider in groups or individually a few scruples (make up some more of your own):

- There is a £20 pound note lying on the pavement. Do you keep it or hand it in to the police station?
- You are eating an apple in the car. Do you throw the core through the window or keep it till you get home?
- You play a musical instrument but haven't practised this week. You're teacher compliments you on your playing saying you have clearly practised. Do you own up or take the compliment?
- You receive a present for your birthday of a jersey. You don't like it. You take it back and buy something else. Your aunt who gave it to you remarks that she never sees you in it. Do you say it is in the wash or that you returned it?

## Call to Worship

When the world tells us  
we are what we do,  
with our activity,  
acumen or achievement,  
let us learn.

When the world tells us  
we are what we do  
with our spending power, selling power,  
or power of speech,  
let us learn.

When the world tells us  
to drown the silent sufferings of others  
with indifference or noise,  
or to forget the art of stillness  
even in the storm,  
let us learn.

When the world tells us  
to rush in where angels fear to tread  
let us learn that angels listen first  
before they take a step.

For the voice of God is with us,  
here in this place.

## Responses

Leader: This is what God says:

**All: I will be with you  
when you are in trouble.**

Leader: When times are hard,  
when things go wrong,

**All: I will be with you  
when you are in trouble.**

Leader: When you make mistakes,  
when you feel ashamed,

**All: I will be with you  
when you are in trouble.**

Leader: I will hear your prayers,  
I will stand by you,

**All: I will be with you  
when you are in trouble.**

## Prayer of Approach

In hunger we come, Lord.  
May we be filled  
with your words of love.

In weakness we come, Lord.  
May we find strength  
in the power of your love.

In humility we come, Lord.  
May we find our voices  
in the glory of your love.

And when the devil is in the detail, Lord,  
help us to see beyond self-gratification  
to the bigger picture,  
to the wider vision,  
to horizons where grace hovers  
with blank pages and a new agenda.

In faith we come, Lord.  
May we know your presence  
in every detail of every day.  
And may our deserts bloom  
in the hope of one  
who loved too much to compromise.  
Amen.



## Prayer of Confession

It must have been tempting, Lord.  
Warm bread  
over hunger's hardness.  
Power's sway  
over a weakened world.  
Divine protection  
over human exposure.

One word  
and you'd be fast-tracked to fame  
without the suffering.  
A simple nod  
and all of creation  
would see you for what you are.  
A deal done,  
sold souls the collateral damage.

It is tempting, Lord,  
with our full stomachs,  
to forget the hungry;  
in our strength and position  
to ignore the weak,  
through self-righteousness  
to display our inhumanity.

When we believe  
that we can have it all  
without the pain of sacrifice.  
When we assume that what we are  
is enough for you.

When we would bargain  
rather than buy into your promises,  
may we hear one word, Lord.  
Forgiveness.

Tempt us, God of grace,  
with visions of your kingdom.  
Turn our eyes away  
from what the world might offer  
to what you have guaranteed.  
Free us to choose you.  
Amen.

## Prayer of Intercession

One day can seem like 40, Lord,  
one moment a lifetime.  
One word can cause  
the world to crumble.  
One look can destroy  
a treasury of dreams.  
One decision can change  
a nation's fortunes.  
One man can hold  
its future in his hands.

For all the places  
and all the people  
who suffer today, Lord,  
we pray for time:  
for it to pass quickly  
for those in pain;  
for it to pass slowly  
for those in need of space;  
for wisdom and understanding  
to come in their own time.

For all the places  
and all the people  
who yearn today, Lord,  
we pray for comfort:  
for it to speak into hearts  
hurt by insensitivity;  
for it to silently gather  
and caress broken hopes;  
for trust and vision  
to touch and transform.

For all the places  
and all the people  
who fear today, Lord,  
we pray for courage:  
for it to rise up  
in the face of injustice;  
for it to surge forward  
in the name of peace;  
for kingdom songs to sound  
throughout the earth.

One day can seem like 40, Lord,  
and 40 a lifetime.  
Yet in a desert place  
you took your time  
you felt God's comfort  
you showed your courage  
and held our future in your hands.

So for ourselves, Lord, today,  
for our church and our community,  
we pray for faith:  
for it to feed our lives;  
for it to inspire our service;  
for it to raise us up  
to be closer to you.  
And may we face the future  
knowing we are loved  
not for a moment,  
not for a lifetime,  
but for eternity.  
Amen.

# worship ideas

## Reflection

*A dialogue reflecting on 40 days of temptation but also those characters in the Bible who gave in to temptation in some way, and how Jesus may have been shaped by that time in the wilderness.*

**Voice 1:** Life begins at

**Voice 2:** forty.

**Voice 1:** A quick sleep is

**Voice 2:** forty winks.

**Voice 1:** Ali-Baba and the

**Voice 2:** Forty Thieves.

**Voice 1:** St Swithun is known for

**Voice 2:** forty days of rain.

**Voice 1:** The flood in Noah's story lasted for

**Voice 2:** forty days and forty nights.

**Voice 1:** The Israelites wandered around for

**Voice 2:** forty years.

**Voice 1:** Elijah heard God's voice after

**Voice 2:** forty days.

**Voice 1:** Jesus was in the wilderness for

**Voice 2:** forty days.

**Voice 1:** But giving into temptation?

**Voice 2:** It is a strong Biblical tradition.

**Voice 1:** He is in good company:

**Voice 2:** Adam,

**Voice 1:** Cain,

**Voice 2:** Moses,

**Voice 1:** Joseph,

**Voice 2:** David,

**Voice 1:** Jonah,

**Voice 2:** Peter,

**Voice 1:** Judas,

**Voice 2:** but not Jesus.

**Voice 1:** He saw through.

**Voice 2:** He saw the change it made:

**Voice 1:** Hungry.

**Voice 2:** Thirsty.

**Voice 1:** Happy.

**Voice 2:** Sad.

**Voice 1:** Tired.

**Voice 2:** Lonely.

**Voice 1:** Hot.

**Voice 2:** Cold.

**Voice 1:** Fearful.

**Voice 2:** Angry.

**Voice 1:** Uncertain.

**Voice 2:** Tempted.

**Voice 1:** Tested.

**Voice 2:** Weakened.

**Voice 1:** Resisted.

**Voice 2:** Strong.

**Voice 1:** Assured.

**Voice 2:** Controlled.

**Voice 1:** Truthful.

**Voice 2:** Devoted,

**Voice 1:** To God.

**Both:** If only we could be the same.

## Sending

We go

to join the journey.

We go

to find the cross.

We go

to move the stone.

We go

to break oppression.

We go

to speak for Jesus.

We go

into the way of Lent.

And the grace...

## Praise/Hymns

At the name of Jesus (CH4 458, MP 41)

Before the throne of God  
(CH4 466, MP 975)

Forty days and forty nights  
(CH4 337, MP 160)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
(CH4 461, MP 251)

Jesus, tempted in the desert (CH4 338)

Jesus, we celebrate your victory (MP 387)

Lead us, heavenly Father (MP 400)

Lord, we long for you to move in power  
(MP 448)

O God, our help in ages past  
(CH4 161, MP 498)

O Love how deep, how, broad, how high!  
(CH4 354)

Safe in the shadow of the Lord (MP 583)

Seek ye first (CH 641, MP 590)

Through all the changing scenes of life  
(MP 702)

When we are tempted to deny your son  
(CH4 400)

Yield not to temptation (CH3 482)



# age group ideas

## gathering activities

### Paper Chain

all age

*You will need: 40 long thin strips of paper (like those used to make paper chain Christmas decorations).*

Write numbers 1-40 on the strips and hide them around the room. Have the children search for the strips and put them into the correct order. Form strips into a paper chain.

Talk about what the children were doing 40 days ago and what the date will be at the end of Lent. Try to get across to the children the length of time Jesus was in the wilderness. Use this as a way into the story and the activities.



### Bread Rolls

all age

*You will need: part baked rolls, oven trays, access to cooker, fillings for rolls. (check for any allergies).*

Bake the rolls, then give each child a roll and as you are putting the fillings inside them and eating the rolls, discuss with the children the temptations they face and ways to help them cope with these.



Alternatively, if you have time, you could make dough and bake your own bread or make dough and give each child a piece of dough wrapped in cling film with instructions on how to bake the bread at home.

### Stones and Bread

all age

*You will need: a selection of different types of bread from around the world (e.g. white bread, baguette, pitta, ciabatta, and so on), small flat stones, paints, paint brushes, newspaper, wipes.*

Have two tables set up. On one the children can try out the different types of bread, and you can talk about where in the world these breads come from.

On another table the children could select a stone and write or paint onto it, adding their names, age, and the name of Jesus. Once these are all created, you could try to make the shape of the number 40 out of the stones.

Alternatively, you could have 40 small stones and have the children lay them out and talk about 40 ways you can follow Jesus, asking for suggestions from the children.

### Patience and Reward

all age

*You will need: basins filled either with soil or sand, small paint brushes, and for each child: a small pebble, cube of bread, paper cut out of a person shape or Jesus image (see page 121).*

In the basins place the items. It doesn't matter which basins they go into and can all be mixed up.

The children have to very carefully brush away the soil or sand to find the 3 items they need: a small stone, a cube of bread and a paper cut out of a person (or a facial picture of Jesus).



Once all the children have found their items they come together and tell the story in their own way. Will they be tempted to hide someone else's item or will they help each other?

# age group ideas

## crafts

### Desert Shoebox **age 3-5**

*You will need: shoebox lids or similar shallow cardboard tray, play sand or coloured craft sand, pva glue, glue spreaders, small pebbles.*

Give each child a shoebox lid and have them cover the inside of the lid with glue. Spread a layer of sand onto the glue and stick a few pebbles on top to create a wilderness scene.

Talk about the kind of place Jesus went into for 40 days and what the children think it would have been like for him there for so long.

### Lent Footprints **age 6-12**

*You will need: purple card, foot templates (each footprint should be about 5 c.m. long, see page 120 for templates), pencils, scissors, staplers, florists ribbon.*

Give each child a template and some card. Ask the children to draw round foot template and cut out 40 footprints. Staple footprints onto length of florists ribbon. Encourage children to think about Jesus in the wilderness and their own journey through this time of Lent.

The footprints could be used as a Lent calendar at home with the children either writing or drawing something on each footprint (one per day). This could be something they've said or done which has helped others or the environment, or something which they've thought about or prayed about or read which has meant something to them.

If you prefer you could make a large Lent footprints calendar for your group and ask each child to tell one thing each week to put on the calendar. The group could use this during each week of Lent.

## games

### High Tower **age 3-5**

*You will need: building blocks, jenga blocks, or cardboard boxes.*

Together or individually see how high a tower can be built, and then have fun knocking it back down again. This is a reminder of when Jesus experienced being at the top of a building looking down.

### Desert Shoes **age 6-12**

*You will need: cereal boxes, string, stone, bread, chair/table, footsteps (laid out around the room to create a path).*

The children have to make a 'snow shoe' (or 'sand shoe') out of the cereal box (2 shoes from 1 box using the large flat panels). They place their feet on them and put two holes either side of their foot at the toes and two holes either side of their ankle. Put the string through the holes and tie them on their feet. The children have to walk in Jesus footsteps.

1. Put snow shoes on.
2. Follow footsteps that you laid out previously around the room.
3. Pick up stone and bread.
4. Climb onto a chair/table.
5. Go to the highest point in the room and then walk back to starting point.

This could become a relay race if you do it in teams.

### On Your Guard **age 3-5**

*You will need: paper cups, soft balls.*

We are always being tempted so we need to be on our guard.

Divide the children into two groups and give each child a paper cup. Split the room into two with a chalk/tape mark with a team on either side. Each team has to protect their own cups.

All the children place themselves between the line and their cups which are placed on the floor. The leader gives one team a ball to roll between the two teams. Each child must guard their own cup. If they are protecting really well add in another ball.

In guarding their own cup whilst trying to get their opponent's cups knocked down they may knock down the cups of their own team members. Once your cup is down you can still play the game trying to get your opponents cups down. Your cup stays knocked down. The winner is the team that still has cups standing.

### Tempting Or What? **age 3-5**

*You will need: half an onion, half a lemon, chocolate bar (each child to have one each of these items).*

Place all the items in a row for each child or make it into a relay game. Each child must eat a piece of onion; suck the lemon before they get to eat their bar of chocolate. Will they be tempted to do it or just forgo their chocolate?



# discussion starters for teens

## devils and dust



### Preparation

You may want to get hold of a copy of Bruce Springsteen's song "Devils and Dust" from the album of the same name and ensure you have the equipment to play it with the group.

### Opening Activity

Talk about being alone. (Asleep in bed does not really count!)

- What is the longest time you have been alone?
- Where were you when you were alone?

### The Word

*You will need: bibles.*

Read together the bible passage (Luke 4:1-13).

### How Long?

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. That's five weeks. On his own. By himself. Alone. That is ages.

- So, what would you do?
- How would you occupy your time?
- Can you think of 40 things to do using only some stones and wood?

You might want to look at Si Smiths illustrations of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

Chris Goan blogged his reflections on each of the 40 days of Lent alongside the pictures <http://thisfragiletent.com/tag/40/> or you can buy the pdf book at <http://proost.co.uk/40-book-pdf>.

### If I Ruled The World

The conversation Jesus has with Satan is all about power. Satan tells Jesus "You could have all this..." That was the root of the temptation Jesus faced.

- So, what would you do if you ruled the world?
- What would you change? And why?

Talk about the ideas everyone has.

- Would they make the world a better place or a worse place? Why?

### Devils and Dust

Listen to Springsteen's song "Devils and Dust" (you can easily find copies of the complete lyrics online) which speaks powerfully of the internal temptations that fight against our better impulses.

Now every woman and every man  
They wanna take a righteous stand  
Find the love that God wills  
And the faith that He commands  
I've got my finger on the trigger  
And tonight faith just ain't enough  
When I look inside my heart  
There's just devils and dust

### What about me?

Jesus spent his time in the wilderness listening to God and working out what God wanted him to do. God has plans for all of us. He has things for us to do.

Lent is often a time when people give up something they enjoy, like chocolate, to share a little in Jesus' experience of 40 days in the wilderness with nothing.

Jesus' time alone wasn't just about giving things up, it was about getting ready and listening to God.

- What could you do during Lent that would help you be more aware of God?
- Or help other people?
- Could you make a decision to do something for Lent instead of giving something up?

