

Stepping Stones Through Lent



Children's Messages

for the Six Weeks of Lent
and Easter Sunday

Week 1: Pray Along the Path • Week 2: Shine Along the Street
Week 3: Love Along the Lane • Week 4: Help Along the Highway
Week 5: View Along the Avenue • Week 6: Weep Along the Way
Easter: Rejoice Along the Road



Stepping Stones Through Lent

Pray Along the Path

A Children's Message for the First Week of Lent

Hello, boys and girls. Welcome to the season of Lent. It is a time when we take steps like stepping stones through these days leading up to Good Friday and Easter. It is through these steps that we draw closer to Jesus, who died on the cross for us and rose again to save us from sin, death and the devil.

One of the first steps we take along the way through Lent is the stepping stone of praying more. We pray more during this 40-day period to become more like Jesus, who prayed very often throughout his life here on earth. Today we are going to read some of the prayers of Jesus recorded in the Bible and see what we can learn from them to help us in our own prayer life.

One prayer that Jesus prayed during his last days on earth was a prayer to God about his disciples. He prayed:

"Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one" (John 17:11).

Jesus wanted to make sure that his close friends were kept safe and were watched over by God. Who are some people you can pray to God for this Lent season? *(Allow the children to respond.)* Those are some very good people to pray for. It is good for us to remember that when we pray to God about others, we are putting them into the Father's hands, and we know that he will take care of them.

Another prayer that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before he was crucified was this:

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

Jesus showed his human side when he prayed this prayer. He was seeing if there was another way to save us from sin and death than dying on a cross. But at the same time, Jesus was saying that he would do whatever God wanted him to do. We have hard things in our lives that we don't always want to do either, don't we? But, like Jesus, we need to always obey God's will and know that he has the best path in mind for us.

Now think about this prayer that Jesus prayed from the cross:

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

It's hard to believe that Jesus asked God to forgive the people who were crucifying him. But we are glad he did because we ourselves have done many bad things in our lives against God and against Jesus and we are in need of his mercy. That is why Jesus came after all, to save us from our sins. Let us pray:

Jesus, you have taught us to pray. Help us to pray often to our Father in heaven this Lent and so grow closer to him through this simple act of faith. Amen.

Activities for the First Week of Lent

Pray Along the Path

Hidden Words

Find the hidden words in this puzzle from the list below.

C T N E L F N G R
Q C D O W M B A F
H E J E S U S R O
S T O N E D O D R
M O O T W P N E G
Z R T N R E C N I
I P S T M L D E V
N J F A T H E R E
G I D N U O S B V

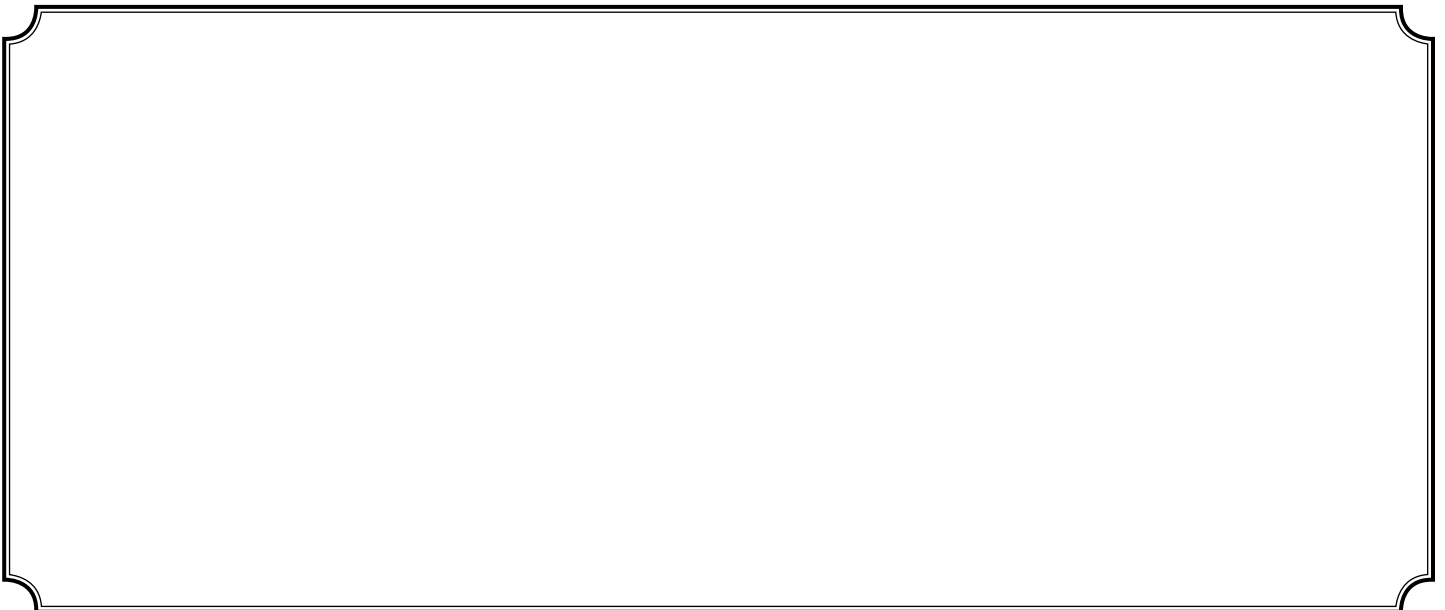
FORGIVE + FATHER + JESUS
AMEN + PROTECT + GARDEN
LENT + STONE

This Lent ask God to forgive us for the times we do not follow God's commands. How many words can you make from the letters in FORGIVENESS?

FORGIVENESS

Dear Jesus,

Write or draw a prayer in this space. What would you like to say to Jesus today?



Coloring Page for the First Week of Lent

Pray Along the Path

Pray then like this:
"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your
will be done, on earth as
it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:9-10

