

**Children's Sermons
for the Six Sundays
of Lent & Easter Day**

**Apple to Dream • Egypt to Freedom
Giant to Jerusalem • King of kings to Mountaintop
News to Resurrection • Salvation to Wonder
eXcited to Zip-a-dee-doo!**

A is for Ashes

Apple to Dream

A Children's Sermon for the First Week of Lent

Welcome, boys and girls. It is so good to see you all today, and it is a good time to be together in church because a special season has just begun. I'm not talking about the season of spring, although that will be here very soon with longer days and brighter, warmer weather. No, the season I'm talking about is the one we call Lent. The season of Lent is a period of just 6 weeks, 40 days to be precise, before the celebration of Easter. That's right, boys and girls, Easter is just six weeks away, but there are many things we can do between now and then. The season of Lent is the perfect time to do those things.

This year, I think we should mark the days of Lent not just by their numbers, one through 40, but alphabetically as well. Let's use the alphabet—just a few letters each week—to help us in our Lenten observance and our Easter preparation.

We can start with A. A is for ... Ashes! The first day of Lent is called ASH Wednesday. Often, people come to church to have their heads marked with a dark cross made of ashes. What does this ashen cross mean? The dark ashes remind us that we are all marked by the dark stain of sin. That mark has been with us since the very beginning (a big B word, boys and girls) when Adam and Eve ate an apple-like fruit from a tree even though God told them, "Keep Away!" Adam and Eve could not avoid the temptation to taste that fruit. They knew right away that they had been ... Bad.

They tried to hide from God, boys and girls. But we know that is simply not possible. Adam and Eve were Caught! God asked them what they had done. And although they were ashamed, and both blamed each other and a sneaky serpent, they eventually confessed that they had indeed devoured that apple. God was angry that Adam has disobeyed. He had given Adam and Eve an Awesome, Beautiful, Continuous and Delightful home in the garden, but God could not allow them to live there anymore.

That's what sin does, boys and girls. It keeps us ... apart ... from God. But the good news is that God wants us ... brought back.

Right there in Eden, God made a plan to bring us back, to be by him again. God promised that he would send a child, the Christ, his own dear boy, to pay the cost for the sins of Eve, Adam and each one of us. The sin that keeps us apart will be cleaned away, God promises, so that the dear and dandy (here's the D word) dream of paradise can come true for us once again and always.

This Lent, we will follow God's promise from A to Z, from its absolute beginning at creation's downfall right through to the surprise zinger of Easter. And we'll do it with our attention drawn to the beautiful cross of Christ.

Please pray with me, boys and girls. Dear Father in Heaven, we do not want to live apart from you. Thank you for planning to bring us back to you from the very beginning. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Activities for the First Week of Lent

Apple to Dream

Hidden Words

Find the words from the Adam's apple story hidden in this puzzle.

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

ADAM • FRUIT • EVE • ATE
SERPENT • EDEN • SIN • TREE



Scramble

Today's lesson is about the perfect garden God planted. Unscramble these words from that story.

DENE _____

RASIDEPA _____

DAAM DAN VEE _____

TEER FO FELI _____

NARGED _____

Drawing

Draw a picture of what you dream the Garden of Eden may have looked like.

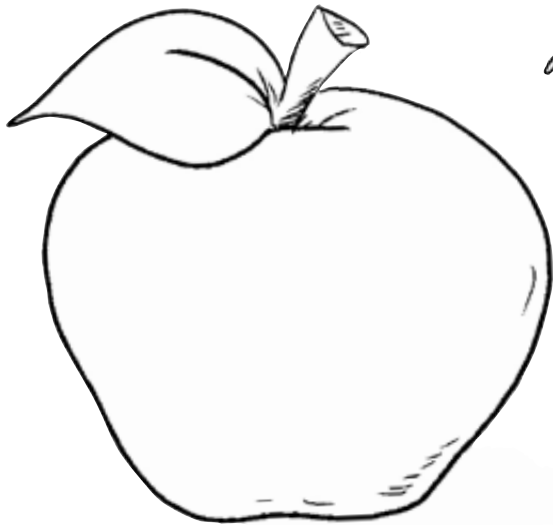
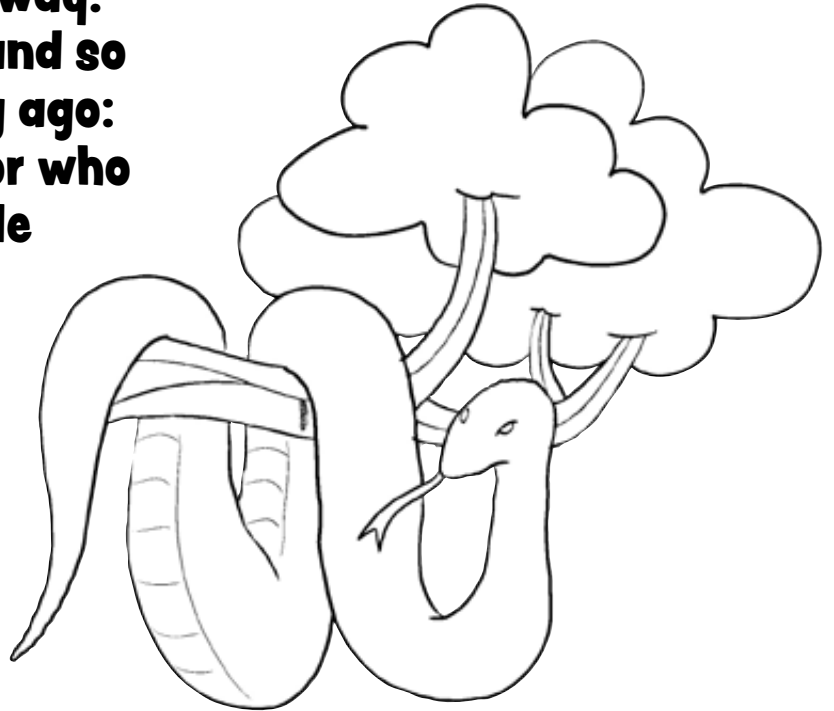
Eden, Paradise, Adam and Eve, Tree of Life, Garden



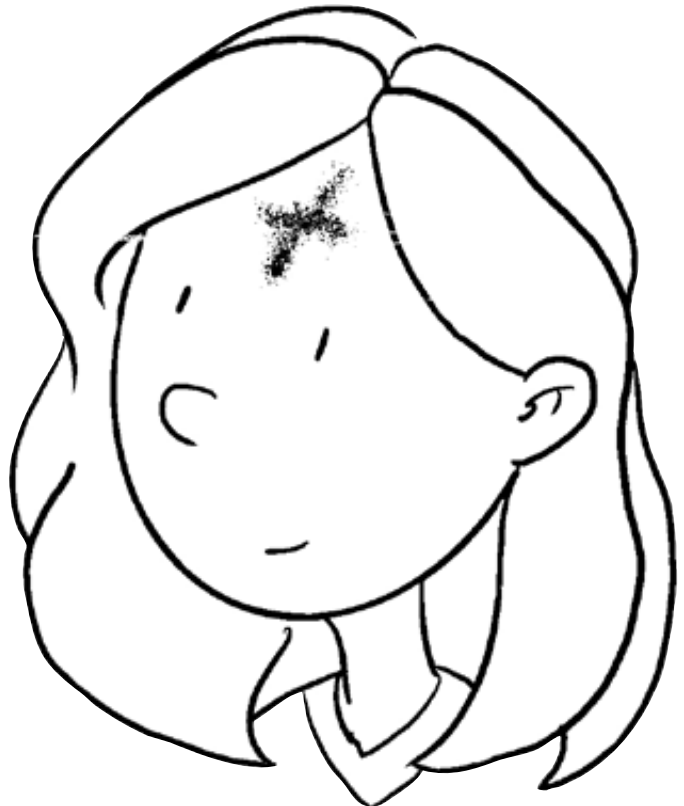
Coloring Sheet for the First Week of Lent

Apple to Dream

**Eve and Adam disobeyed.
God said they must be away.
But God wants us back, and so
God made a promise long ago:
A child will come, a Savior who
will bring God's people
life anew.**



Read Genesis 3
and color this picture.



A is for Ashes

Egypt to Freedom

A Children's Sermon for the Second Week of Lent

Good morning, and welcome back, everyone. If you remember, throughout the season of Lent—these special days of prayer and praise before Easter—we are keeping track and marking the week alphabetically.

This week I'd like to explain about a time when God's people were enslaved in the land of Egypt. Egypt is where today's story starts. But—spoiler alert—it finishes with freedom!

For four hundred years, God's people, the Israelites, had lived in Egypt where they were treated as slaves. They cried out to God to free them. And, we learn in the book of Exodus, God's ears were open to their cries. God knew that it was time to bring those people out of Egypt to a free land far from there.

God chose a special leader named Moses to bring the people to freedom. God called to Moses from a bush covered in fiery flames. "Moses, you must tell Egypt's king to set my people free."

The king of Egypt was stubborn. He wanted the Israelites to stay and *work* for free, not go somewhere else to *be* free. But Moses, with God's fantastic and sometimes frightening help, explained it to the king quite well indeed. The king finally said, "Fine. The people are free to go."

Over four hundred thousand people followed Moses out of Egypt, boys and girls. God's people were free! ... Except ...

The king was fickle. That means he changed his mind easily. He called on his army to chase after those escaping Israelites. Soon they caught up with them at the shores of the Red Sea.

Moses knew just what to do. He called to God for help. And once again, God provided a fantastic and somewhat frightening escape plan. The waters of the Red Sea opened. God's people could flee through the sea! When they had safely reached the other side, God closed the seas once more. The Egyptian army was erased by the waves. God's people were free.

This story is exciting and entertaining in many ways, boys and girls. But more importantly, it helps to explain Lent and Easter for us. We, like the Israelites, are enslaved by sin. But God's loving ears are open to our cries for help. God sends us a special leader, Jesus, who somewhat frighteningly has finally and fantastically brought us to freedom! We follow him this season and each day of our lives and on to the promise of eternity! Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, thank you for the everlasting freedom that your suffering, death and resurrection have earned for us. We are eternally grateful. Amen.


Activities for the Second Week of Lent


Egypt to Freedom


Path to Freedom


Find the name
of the body of water Moses and the
people walked through.

S = 

E = 

D = 

A = 

R = 



On their way to freedom, God's people were given 10 Commandments. These are laws that God's people follow each day. Can you make 10 words from the letters in *commandment*?

COMMANDMENT

Out of Egypt

Use the words below to complete the following Bible verse.

The _____ were _____,
and the _____ went through
the _____ on _____ ground.

Exodus 14:21-22

dry • waters • sea • divided • Israelites

Activities for Easter Sunday
eXcited to Zip-a-dee-doo!

**I am eXcited
to finally eXclaim.
“Yes, Jesus lives, and
he makes me brand new!
I’ll spend eternity
praising his name
from Alleluia to
Zip-a-dee-doo!**



Read Matthew 28 and
color this Easter scene.

