

Lent 2021

A TIME OF PREPARATION



Following the example of Jesus...



- ▶ **Christians look to the life and example of Jesus to help them to know how to live, a bit like the way that road signs help people to know what to do on the road. On their journey through the 40 days of Lent, Christians will be especially focussing on the life of Jesus and following his example of how to live in God's Kingdom. We're going to use our time today to think a bit more about this using some familiar road signs...to reflect on what Lent might mean for us in our school community....and how it might help us to live differently.**

Reduce Speed Now

- ▶ Like Advent, Lent is a special time of preparation for Christians a time to prepare for Easter... a time to live differently....a time to slow down and reflect....as we are going to do today.



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- ▶ **Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, praying & preparing for the job that God had asked him to do. He went without food or drink for this whole time. In the challenges he faced in the desert, Jesus always put God's ways first. The season of Lent remembers this time and starts 40 days before Easter Day.**



Pancakes

- ▶ **This looks a bit like a pancake, doesn't it?! In the past, people were supposed to use up all the rich foods in their kitchen, such as butter and eggs, before Lent starts, which is why we have pancakes. During the 40 days of Lent, people who are Christians sometimes choose to give up something that they really like, such as chocolate, or TV, or computer games....**



Give Way

- ▶or they might choose to do some good for others, remembering how Jesus did this in his own life. They will try to serve others in lots of different ways, showing love for family, friends and others, following the example of Jesus, and living according to God's kingdom. I wonder what good ideas we could think of as we go through Lent together this year?



Hard Work!

- ▶ Living in this way is often hard work!.... because as human beings, we often find it easier to think about ourselves. But as we've heard from the parables of the kingdom, living this topsy-turvy way is what Jesus taught. Maybe you'd like to be a part of the challenge this Lent, or for as long as you can manage, because every little helps!



We are not alone...

- ▶ **The good news is that we're not doing this alone: we have others around us to help us, and we can encourage one another to keep doing good.....We can ask God to help us too, which we'll be doing in few moments.**



Think quietly for a moment...



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► ...think about the things that we've heard today.... Jesus spent 40 days in the desert and lived his life putting others first.... Lent is a time when people who are Christians will try to follow the example of Jesus.... over this week, and maybe for longer, we could try to do some good for others using the ideas we've talked about.... or find some new ways of our own.... I wonder how this might change our world?.... think quietly to yourself for a few moments now...

Let us pray...

Loving God,

Help us to work together to share what we have, so that everyone has what they need.

Help us to build a better world, where each of us can become the best person we can be.

Help us to live differently during this season of Lent.

Amen

