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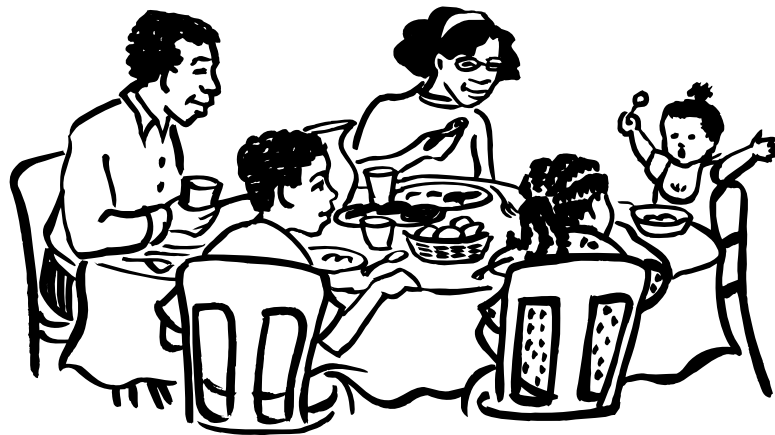
Sharing a meal

In Jesus' story, the father had a big party to celebrate his son's return. What is something we can do to remember Jesus' love for us? To find the answer, write the letter that is added to the second word in each blank. Then read the answer.

on → one —
 get → gate —
 go → got —

AND

an → and —
 at → rat —
 ran → rain —
 sad → sand —
 thin → think —



Dear God, thank you for the meals we share. Amen

This week

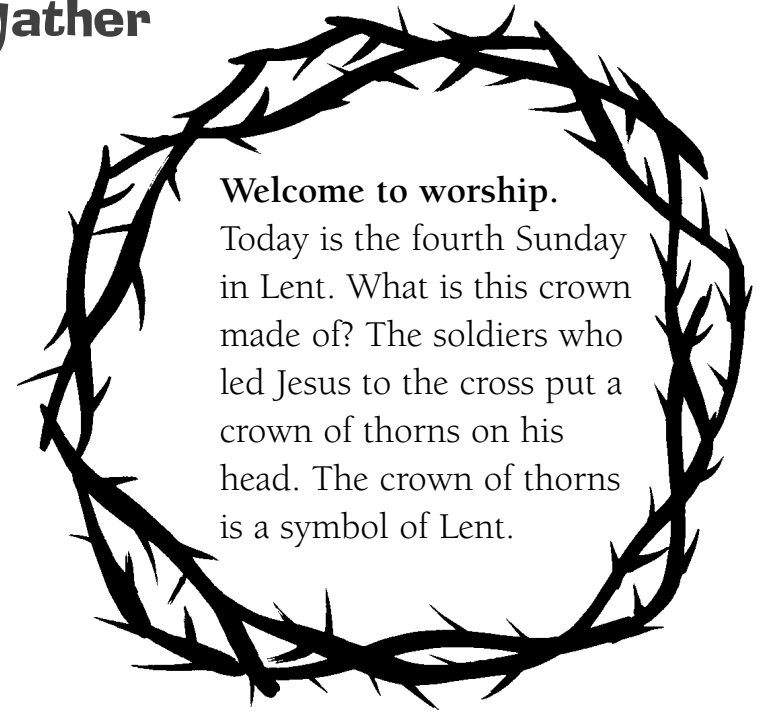
Help your family prepare a special meal to celebrate God's love and forgiveness.

Kids Celebrate

Fourth Sunday in Lent



gather



Welcome to worship.

Today is the fourth Sunday in Lent. What is this crown made of? The soldiers who led Jesus to the cross put a crown of thorns on his head. The crown of thorns is a symbol of Lent.



Thorns protect the beauty of the rose, the sweet juice of the pineapple, and the water of the cactus.

Crowns of thorns can remind you that sadness comes before the joy of Easter.



Look for something rough or scratchy in your worship space.

A father forgives his son

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus told this story:

A man had two sons. The younger son asked his father to give him his half of the family's money. Then the younger son traveled to a faraway land, where he spent all of his money. He had to live with pigs on a pig farm. The younger son knew he would have a better life if he returned home, so he finally headed home.

When the father saw his younger son, he was happy and hugged him. The father had a big party. The older son was angry, though. He worked hard for his father, but his father never had a party for him. The father said to his older son, "Son, you are always with me. But we're having a party because your brother was lost and has been found."

Draw plenty of food for the party.



Eating and drinking

In the story Jesus told, the father had a big party because his younger son came home. We celebrate God's love and forgiveness for us by eating and drinking, too. This meal is called Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper or the eucharist (YOU-car-ist). Everyone has a place at God's table.

Draw the altar in your worship space.

Draw bread and wine on top of it.



Any Animals?

Do you see any pictures of animals in your worship space? What are they, and what do you think they could represent?

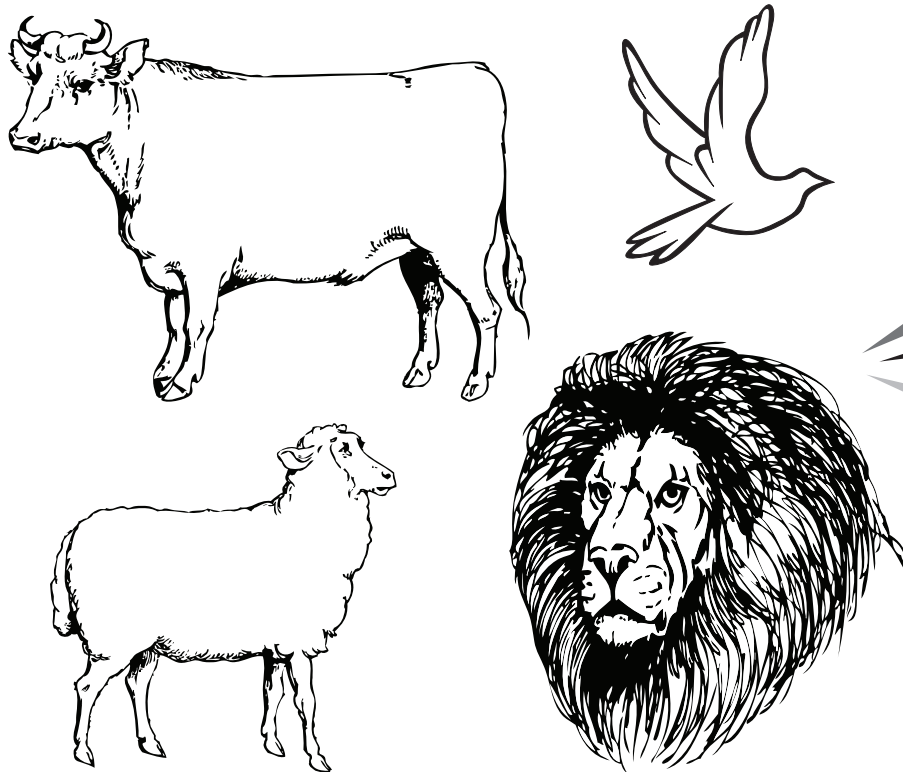
There is a _____, which makes me think of _____.

There is a _____, which makes me think of _____.

There is a _____, which makes me think of _____.

There is a _____, which makes me think of _____.

There is a _____, which makes me think of _____.



READER

Lent 4

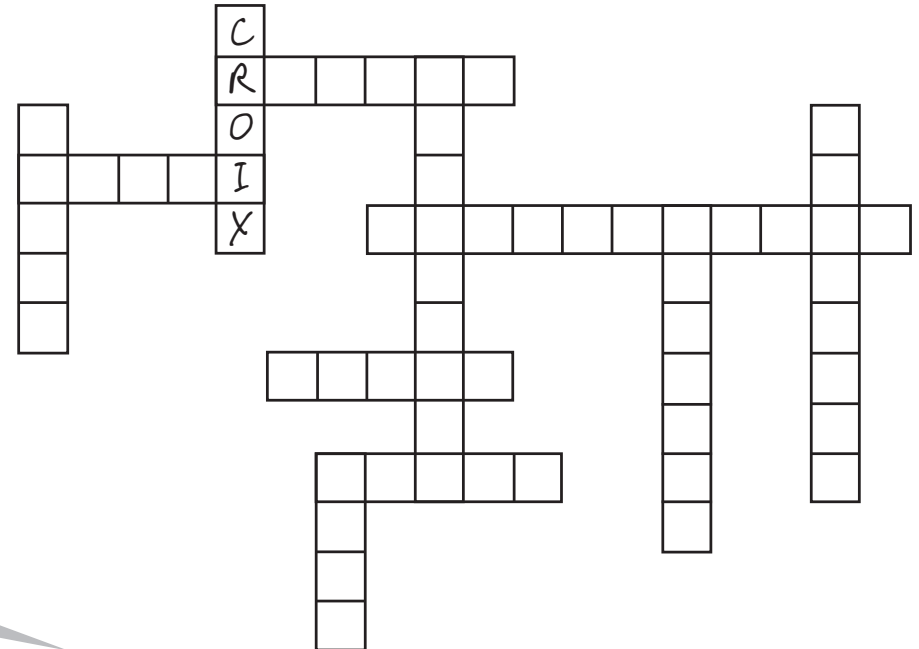
- Today is the **4th Sunday** in Lent.
- Lent is a season for **rebirth and renewal**.
- The word *Lent* comes from an Old English word for "**springtime**."

Cross Words Crossword

The symbol of Lent is the cross. Fit the words for "cross" from these 11 languages into the spaces that will fit their letters.

- In Italian, **croce**.
- In French, **croix**.
- In Spanish, **cruz**.
- In Zulu, **isiphambano**.
- In German, **kreuz**.
- In Dutch, **kruis**.

- In Tagalog, **krusipihon**.
- In Swedish, **lindande**.
- In Swahili, **msalaba**.
- In Maori, **ripeka**.
- In Finnish, **risti**.



We know today's story as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but what does "prodigal" really mean? Number the first letter of each word of the memory verse, then fill in the numbers to see the definition. The first few letters have been filled in for you.

Memory Verse



1 2 3
 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours
 _____²⁶
 was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found. – Luke 15:32

2 15 18 22,
 w a s _____ e f u _____

_____ 9 7 23 6 6 4,
 e x _____ v _____ g _____ n _____

7 5 19
 _____ e _____ k _____ e s s



Release Resentment

When the older brother doesn't want to forgive the Prodigal Son, he excludes himself from the celebration! Holding grudges can keep us from having good relationships with our family and friends. What can you do to make sure you're not holding onto any grudges?

I CAN TELL _____

I CAN FORGIVE _____

I CAN HELP _____

I CAN PRAY _____

I CAN _____

Picky About Pigs

The Prodigal Son hits rock bottom when finds a job feeding pigs. Jews weren't supposed to eat pigs, let alone live with them! What's the worst animal you can imagine working with? Draw it! Then draw an animal that you would like to work with.

I wouldn't want to work with...

I would want to work with...



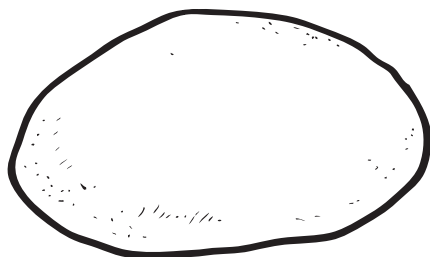
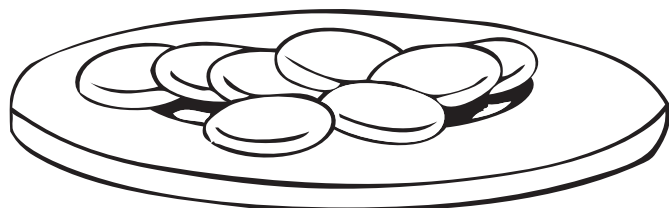
Look It Up!

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is the third of three stories that Jesus tells about things that are lost and found. Check out the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7) and the Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10) to learn more about what

Jesus said about repentance and forgiveness!

Different churches use different kinds of bread during Holy Communion. What kind of bread does *your* church use for Communion?

Circle the bread that looks like the kind your church uses or draw it yourself.



PRE-READER

Lent 4

- Today is the **4th Sunday** in Lent.
- Lent is **40 days** long—not counting Sundays!
- The color of Lent is **purple**.

The cross represents the season of Lent. Find all six crosses in the picture.





“What am I thinking,” he said to himself as he fed the pigs. “The men who work for my father have more than enough to eat.”

When the Prodigal Son came home, his father showed that he was forgiven by giving him fancy gifts: a coat, shoes, and a ring.

What present would you give someone to show forgiveness?

