

Lenten Prayer Activity: Upper Elementary

Reproduce and distribute the following activity to your 3rd -6th graders. Go over in class and follow up. You might want to have students bring in their lists on palm Sunday and make magazine collages together

Thank You, God, for the World!
A Lenten Praise Activity

By describing how nature praises God, Old Testament writers help us to remember how marvelous God's creation is. Here are some verses that do that:

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the earth roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. Let the deserts and their towns lift up their voice... Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands. (Isaiah 42:10-12)

The mountains and the hills... shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12b)

Praise [the Lord], sun and moon; praise him all you shining stars! (Psalm 148:3)

What is happening outside your window every morning? Are birds singing? Do you see spring flowers? Do trees have new green leaves? During spring, it almost seems as if all creation really is praising God.

Praising God is an important part of prayer, a part we sometimes forget. We especially forget when we have something we need to ask God's help with or when there is something we want very much. Sometimes our prayers are like very long wish lists, and we forget that God has already given us something very wonderful – all of creation!

Make a list of some of the parts of creation you would especially like to thank God for.

Each day during the rest of Lent add one thing from nature to your list. You could write down something you've seen that day, or you could write down something you've never seen but that you think is pretty wonderful! After you've added it to your list, say,

Thank you, God, for _____. You did a really good job when you made _____.

At the end of the month, make a magazine collage of all of the things you wrote down on your list. Hang it in your room to remind you how marvelous God's whole creation is.