

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TREASURES

## *Lenten and Easter Hands-On Activities*

### The Jelly Bean Prayer

RED is for the blood Christ gave.  
GREEN is for the grass God made.  
YELLOW is for the sun so bright  
ORANGE is for the edge of night.  
BLACK is for his crucifixion,  
WHITE is for the Resurrection.  
PURPLE is for his hours of sorrow,  
PINK is for our new tomorrow.  
A bag full of jelly beans, colorful and sweet,  
Is a prayer, is a promise, is everyone's treat.



At the beginning of Lent have this prayer as well as an empty jar or clear container at a prominent place in the classroom. Provide white, red, green, yellow, orange, black, purple and pink jelly beans available for the students to put in the jar when they complete a Lenten promise. The students put a colored jelly bean in the jar when they do something that represents the specific color. The following are some basic suggestions.

- Red – Give up something; a TV show or a snack as a reminder of the blood Jesus sacrificed for us.
- Green – Good deeds, help your parents, take turns, share with others
- Yellow – Give a smile or a complement to someone. Send a card to a shut-in
- Orange – Say an extra prayer for the needy before going to bed
- Black- Thank Jesus for giving his life for us
- Purple – Apologize for hurting others by words or deeds. Say the Act of Contrition. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Pink – Pray for the victims in Haiti or those in hospitals. Help someone sad or hurt.
- White – Since this represents Jesus' Resurrection, this is a gift freely given, and should be put in the jar each day in addition to the other jelly beans.

### School Project



Before Lent each student is given a cut-out cross. The students are asked to make an extra effort to renew their lives and turn back to God by doing something special during Lent by way of prayer, fasting and/or sharing. They print this promise on the cross and then decorate it appropriately. These crosses are placed on and around a large cross that is hung in a visible area of the school as a reminded of a united effort to draw closer to Jesus. (A package of 30 cut-out crosses, sold by Church Supplies, can be purchased at The Dollar Store.)

## Resurrection Eggs



This is an easy way to share the story of Holy Week and Easter with the younger grades. You will need the book, Benjamin's Box: The Story of the Resurrection Eggs by Melody Carlson, a dozen plastic Easter eggs, an egg carton and the items listed below. Each egg is to contain one of the symbols listed. Read the story to the students and have them open and explain how each is related to the events of Holy Week.

- |           |                            |                 |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. bread  | 2. coins                   | 3. purple cloth |
| 4. thorn  | 5. scourge or thick string | 6. cross        |
| 7. nail   | 8. sign                    | 9. sponge       |
| 10. spear | 11. rock                   | 12. (empty)     |

For the middle and upper grades the students can read, explain, illustrate or write a reflection for the Scripture passages where each of these symbols is found.

Bread – Matt. 26:26

Coins – Matt. 26: 14-15

Purple Cloth – Mark 15:17

Thorns – Matt. 27:29

Scourge – Mark 15:15

Cross - John 19:17-18a

Nails – John 20-25b

Sign - Luke 23:38

Sponge – Matt. 27:48

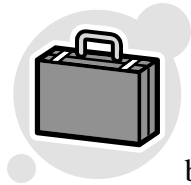
Spear – John 19:34

Rock – Matt. 27:59 – 60

Empty – Matt 28:6

Variations of this activity can be found at: [www.rainbowcastle.org/resurrectioneggs.html](http://www.rainbowcastle.org/resurrectioneggs.html)

## Lenten Prayers



Lent is a time to reflect on our life as a journey toward eternal life. Each day we prepare for our goal by prayer, sacrifice and sharing with others. This short reflection can be a way to begin each Religion class during Lent.

On Ash Wednesday bring an empty suitcase in the classroom. Explain how the bring in an object or picture that represents something he/she can do for Lent or a reminder of the meaning of Lent. The student also writes a short reflection, reads it to the class and then puts the prayer and the object into the suitcase.

- heart – reminder to open our hearts to God's love through prayer.

Prayer: Thank you, God for giving us your Son, Jesus so we can have eternal life. Help me to grow in your love each day.

- flash light - Brighten someone's day with a get well card.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen and heal the sick, especially\_\_\_\_\_ .

An excellent Lenten reflection to use for the beginning of class with the younger students can be found at [www.cptryon.org](http://www.cptryon.org) which gives a simple reflection on the Sunday Gospel.

Heart Prayer During Lent for Each Sunday of Lent by Lucille Perotto Castro,

Publisher: Passionist Missionaries

At the end of their together time with Jesus have the students illustrate their thoughts on the Scripture comment.

