

## **Lent is a time for Reflection**

We gather together tonight to touch base with God and each other.

It is important for us to take time to communicate- with our students, our fellow RELIG staff, and most importantly to make time to communicate with Jesus.

Tonight we will share a simple prayer service that can be duplicated with your kids.

Let's take a minute to tune into where we are at with God.

We are half way thru Lent.

Think back to when you first learned about Lent. What do you remember?

What does Lent mean to you? How do you celebrate this season of Lent?

(time for sharing-notice the center piece for inspiration)

Leader:

Sometimes we get so caught up with our own preoccupations and concerns that we need to be reminded of important events. (Like I need reminders on Fridays not to eat meat). We are grateful when someone reminds us of a birthday. We are happy when someone reminds us of some event we need to remember.

It is so easy to take people for granted. And it is easy to take God for granted. It is so easy to fail to appreciate all that God has done for us. It is as if we become paralyzed by bad habits and boredom...

1. by not loving others or letting others love us
2. by neglecting our minds
3. by taking friendships for granted
4. by being selfish
5. by not making an effort to become better people
6. by not praying and worshiping
7. by being passive about social justice issues

With each Lenten season, we are reminded that we are invited once again to change, to be healed, to come to know a little more of God's love, and to come to realize our responsibility to help build the kingdom of God's justice and peace and also to help build the RELIG community of students and staff.

During these days of this Lenten season, let us reflect on the idea that we are called to be the light of Christ.

(Light Christ Candle in middle and six candles)

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People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was and angel speaking to him'. Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;  
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.  
And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die. The crowd answered, 'The Law has taught us that the Christ will remain forever. How can you say, "The Son of Man must be lifted up"? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus then said:

'The light will be with you only a little longer now.  
Walk while you have the light, or the dark will overtake you;  
he who walks in the dark does not know where he is going.  
While you still have the light, believe in the light  
and you will become children of the light.'

Having said this, Jesus left them and kept himself hidden.

Leader: Perhaps the Lord is speaking to us today through some event,  
or through some person?  
Maybe you heard Jesus speaking to you tonight, through this prayer  
service....

Thank you, Lord, for including us as your special friends. Help us to be more open  
to your voice.