

Lent and Easter Resources

1. **"Longing for God"** :: Richard Foster & Gayle Beebe (Hodder 2009). A reading of some core texts from the likes of Origen of Alexandria, Augustine of Hippo, Bernard of Clairvaux, Thomas a Kempis etc. These are accompanied with "reflecting and responding" sections to help readers on their spiritual journey.
2. **"The Crown and the Fire"** :: Meditations on the Cross and the life of the Spirit". NT Wright (Eerdmans 1997). The first half of the book explores seven words spoken TO the cross, rather than the traditional seven words from the cross. The second half explores how we might live life in the Spirit and build the Kingdom of God.
3. **"Free of Charge"** :: Miroslav Volf (Zondervan 2006). An incredible book about grace – although written by a professor, this is not an academic book – although it does demand concentration. A book that doesn't preach forgiveness, but illustrates from the authors own life why it is such a gift.
4. **"The Vision and the Vow, Rediscovering Life and Grace"** :: Pete Greig (Relevant, 2004). A fantastic read, the powerful prayer, penned by Greig made its way around the world . . . and you will see why when you read it. This book, for me, is "The Cost of Discipleship" (Bonhoeffer), for the 21st Century.
5. **Smiley Pancake Recipe** :: http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/media/36158/llll_pancake_recipe.pdf
6. **Make an Easter Garden** :: <http://bit.ly/1DwI69S>
7. **Love Life Live Lent Booklets** :: <http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/love-life-live-lent-booklets>
8. **Us** :: Loads of Resources here for Lent and Easter :: <http://www.weareus.org.uk/resources/gospel/>
9. **CMS** :: Great Easter resources here, aimed at children in school :: <http://bit.ly/1AjO14H>
10. **"Tales from the Madhouse"** :: (Bible Society) . . . this is absolutely awesome, was released originally on VHS and then brought out on DVD in 2000 – an amazing cast . . . If you HAVE this knocking around somewhere, dust it off and use it with young people 15+ and adults . . . thought provoking examination of the lives of 8 people that Jesus touched in the run up to his crucifixion.
11. **Christian Aid Resources** :: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent/>
12. **Stewardship** :: This great resource from stewardship has a load of FREE resources for youth workers. Check it out here: www.40acts.org.uk
13. **SGM Life Words** :: From Scripture Gift Mission comes this simple DVD with 8 abstract animations that tell the Easter Story :: <http://bit.ly/1zf3UYo>
14. **Son of Man** :: http://www.danstevens.com/store/son_of_man/ A powerful wordless animation of Christ as he goes to the cross and rises again, interspersed with scenes from his life on earth. Moving and powerful, ideal for Easter Sunday or as a reflection on where we are heading through lent . . .

15. **Love - A New Commandment** :: <http://bit.ly/1DwMiX6> This is available to purchase from "Sermonspice" a great place for illustrations, countdowns and mini-videos. I like this particularly, because it brings home the radical nature of one of last things Jesus says to his disciples, and gives all of us - as we approach Easter - a reminder of just how great the love of Jesus is.
16. **Les Misérables - The Bishop** :: <http://bit.ly/1zA5EdA> In this clip from the 2012 film of "Les Misérables" the Bishop welcomes Valjean into his house, feeds him, gives him somewhere to rest - the Bishop is then promptly robbed of his silver. When Valjean is caught and brought back - the Bishop asks for him to be released as he gave the silver to Valjean - he then gives him the candlesticks off the table! A picture of forgiveness, redemption and grace . . . if you paste the URL above into www.keepvid.com then you can download the video and use it without needing to be connected to the Internet.
17. **Bible Storyteller** :: This app is available for both iOS and Android devices. You can choose to read or listen to the stories - I have included it because there are a couple from the gospels that focus on the Easter story. Listen to Gavin tell the story or read for yourselves - what I like is the way he has dramatised events in a way that will draw children and young people into the events.
18. **Easter News** :: A series of Eight short videos from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, done in the style of a journalistic outside broadcast, each one is really short - great for younger children, and could be used to introduce or be instead of a Bible reading covering the same part of the narrative. FREE to download from max7.org here :: <http://bit.ly/1F5174H>
19. **Matching Prayers** :: This is like matching pairs, only for prayers! The idea is simple. Do matching cards / pictures for 10 different things that children and young people can be encouraged to pray for. Then, play the game. Whoever gets a matching pair has to say a prayer on that topic! You might well come up with your own ten pairs of cards, but here are some to start you off :: People who are sick / Family / The World / Thankful for food / Today / Friends / Emergency Services / Church Leaders / Yourself / People who are hungry. You could create different sets for prayer around different themes and ideas.
20. **Pray it Forward** :: Encourage those you work with, children and young people, to write God a pray for themselves and what they would like to discover and grow in through lent. Something they want to give up, maybe they want to become more thoughtful or generous. We might all have plans or hopes, but lent is a journey - and we may discover unexpected things about ourselves and God along the way. Once written, encourage them to put it in an envelope, not to be opened until the season of lent has moved into Easter and Holy Week. Maybe at this point they could open it and ask themselves some questions : What have I discovered since I wrote this? What will I remember from my journey through Lent? Are there things I value more (or less) now than when I started?
21. **The Three Trees** :: Give each young person (I recommend older youth and young adults for this idea) three cardboard trees. On one side highlight the longing or desire the tree had from the "Three Trees Fable" - <http://www.word4life.com/threetrees.html> a copy of the story. First Tree = What we look like and outward appearance / beauty. Second Tree = Strength and Power. Third Tree = To be noticed and important. Each tree became what they longed for, just not in the way they anticipated! Write John 3:30 on the other side of each cardboard tree. Maybe share a reflection for each longing (beauty, strength, importance) how - during this lent time,

can we give our longings and desires (and with them our hopes and fears) to Jesus and know that we are loved by Him, valued by Him, precious to Him.

22. **Diocese of Winchester Lent Course** :: This is great, with activities for all ages - check it out here :: <https://winchesterlent.wordpress.com>

23. **Animated Easter Story** :: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3UKd6LQKng>
Check this out on youtube, (download via www.keepvid.com) scripture based animated retelling of Jesus life, death and resurrection.

24. **Lent Downloads** :: You need to pay for them, but these are excellent resources from BRF - check them out here :: <http://www.brfonline.org.uk/lent-downloads/>

25. **Vintage Church Resources** :: I can't describe how GREAT it is to find a website I have not come across before with AMAZING stuff for FREE - but, here we are, on this site there is loads of artwork (some Easter themed, which is why I have included it here) and it is all free! Download the files associated with the image and you can edit and add your own content for some fantastic looking backgrounds and images for your sermons or themed services! <http://vintagechurchresources.com>

26. **Stuff I can Use** :: Similar to Vintage, as above - again, royalty free graphics to bring your sermons, talks and illustrations to life <http://stufficanuse.com>

27. **Seeds** :: Loads of FREE stuff here, you need to create an account (which is free) then a whole load of resources are yours to download and use / adapt for your ministry. <https://seeds.churchonthemove.com/resources>

28. **Hope Together - Easter Message** :: From "Hope Together" comes this article with ideas for your Easter message - <http://bit.ly/1Ddj81K>

29. **This Changes Everything** :: A simple design, again background stuff or presentation stuff - why so much about images and visuals? Because an arresting image can compliment what you say - especially when engaging with children and young people. You can also concentrate on what you are teaching - if someone has done the fiddly work of creating some amazing graphics that you get to use for free! Go and grab this one :: <http://bit.ly/18N0lyN>

30. **Easter Cracked** :: This is a tried and tested resource from Scripture Union, I can't recommend it highly enough. <http://bit.ly/1KqYETf>

31. **Ethos : Contrast - Change your rhythm** :: This is great, and has some excellent ideas for lent and considering rhythm and balance and simplicity - I would use it with late teens, students and 20s. Go watch here :: <http://bit.ly/1HZQsNY>

32. **Rhythms - Contrast** :: This follows on from the Ethos video, this is a great way of encouraging young adults to think how they might give, serve, consider, draw alongside others during lent - <http://rhythms.org/rhythm/contrast/>

33. **1 2 3** :: Is this something you could consider using through lent with your older young people, it is a straightforward programme for growing disciples who want to take their faith seriously and encourage others to do the same - check it out here :: <http://www.livelife123.org>

34. **The Treasure Box People** :: This is a brand new resource, aimed at families - they have literally just launched. Check out the video on the website, look through

what they are offering - It looks and sounds brilliant and is meeting a real need.
<http://www.thetreasureboxpeople.co.uk>

35. **CPO** :: There are some quality banners and posters for your Easter services and activities from CPO - check them out here :: <http://bit.ly/1HZUJB0>

36. **Re:Jesus** :: From this renowned website, a whole load of Easter resources for you to pick and choose from as you consider your teaching over the Easter period.
<http://www.rejesus.co.uk/easter>

37. **Iron Giant - Sacrifice Scene** :: Based on the Ted Hughes story, "The Iron Man" this wonderful film about an iron giant has this powerful scene towards the end of the film, I have used it to talk about sacrifice and then what Jesus did for us through dying on the cross. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UkZOZIO63I>

38. **10 Ideas for Lent** :: Simple ideas, but pretty powerful if you do them - ideal for a team to take on and encourage each other to follow through, plus some good ideas here to involve children and young people in.
<http://www.yourmodernfamily.com/10-lent-ideas/>

39. **Lent in 2 Minutes** :: Like their "Advent in 2 Minutes", this is swift kinetic look at the season of lent and why it is practiced from Busted Halo. Would make a great introduction for the season :: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3L3c23MfC0>

40. **What's In the Bible - DVD 10** :: The "What's In the Bible" series is excellent if you have never used it. Great for ages 7-11, in DVD 10 we are in the Gospels and included in this is the Last Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus. Make sure you buy a UK version, available from "Eden" here : <http://bit.ly/1KbXexC>

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