







Lenten keys.

We made up key change cards for the six weeks of Lent. On one side of each card we used the four keys of the *Child in Our Hands*: Caring conversations, family devotions, family service and family rituals and traditions. The back side gave a brief description of some legend and/or tradition relating to the Lenten/Easter season.


For added emphasis we added clip art pertaining to the legend/tradition. We then laminated the cards, punched holes and put them on a key ring. They were distributed at the Worship Service on the 1st Sunday



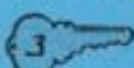

of Lent.

WEEK 1	
CARING CONVERSATIONS 	Share about a song or hymn you like to sing during this season of the church year. Why did you choose the one you did?
FAMILY DEVOTIONS 	Read Psalm 51. What does this Psalm suggest about the writer's concerns and desires?
FAMILY SERVICE 	Go to a nursing home and bring some flowers or a plant. Share a song or a card with one of the residents.
FAMILY RITUALS & TRADITIONS 	Make a cross and set it on your kitchen table as a reminder of the Lenten Journey.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the "40 days of Lent" is a period of preparation leading up to the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ. There are actually 46 days in the Season of Lent, however, six Sundays are not counted.

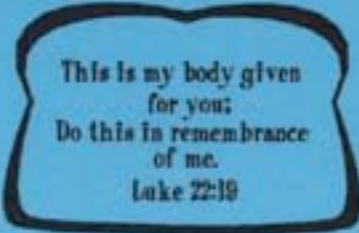
Lent was a time of preparation for Baptism in the early church. Baptismal candidates were required to fast the 40 days before Easter, at which time they were baptized into the Christian faith. Today Lent is a time for reaffirming baptismal vows. It is a time for growing in the Christian faith, for heart-searching and repentance. It is a time for renewal and self-discipline.


Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel

WEEK 2	
CARING CONVERSATIONS 	Tell of a time when you were unconditionally loved or accepted.
FAMILY DEVOTIONS 	Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What does it tell us about God's grace?
FAMILY SERVICE 	One way to thank God is to help others. Find someone in your neighborhood that needs help or support.
FAMILY RITUALS & TRADITIONS 	On Saturday evenings take time to make a list of something or someone for which you are thankful and pray for them.

Bread has always been one of the most symbolic aspects of Easter. When celebrating Passover with his disciples, Jesus broke bread and passed it among them saying it was his body and was broken for them and to eat it in remembrance of him. This is considered the first Lord's Supper.

Jesus is also known as the Bread of Life.


This is my body given for you;
Do this in remembrance of me.
Luke 22:19

CARING
CONVERSATIONS



WEEK 3

What causes or beliefs are important enough to risk your life for? Be reminded of the many colors of Easter and know that they symbolize God's love for us.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS



Look up Colossians 1:12-14. What does it mean to be rescued from darkness and made saint?

FAMILY SERVICE



Find all the loose change you can around the house and bring it for the globe on Sunday.

FAMILY RITUALS
& TRADITIONS



Talk to your Godparents (baptismal sponsors) about the day you were baptized. Ask them what they remember most?

Green - God grows us in His grace.
Yellow - Jesus is our Sunshine.
Blue - God gives us heaven.
Red - Jesus' blood covers our sins.
Purple - Jesus is the King.

Look around at the colors on Easter —which one means the most to you?



CARING
CONVERSATIONS



WEEK 4

Share about what we think it was like to be one of Jesus' 12 disciples.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS



Read the story of Lazarus in John 11. What do you think it was like for him?

FAMILY SERVICE



Pick a project around the house that the whole family can help with, join together to complete it. Talk about people's gifts in the family.

FAMILY RITUALS
& TRADITIONS



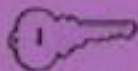
Spend some time outdoors. Go for a walk and enjoy God's creation. Have a contest in the family to find the most unique creation.

The dogwood tree, which was said to have been used to make Jesus' cross, is known for its beautiful white and pink blossoms that are usually in full bloom by Easter.

Legend has it Jesus told the dogwood tree, which then grew as large as an oak tree, because of its shame it would never again grow large enough to serve as a cross. Legend says Jesus instructed the blossoms to grow in the form of a cross, with two long petals and two short ones. In the center of the outer edge of each petal is a design that appears to be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with blood, and the heart of the blossom resembles a crown of thorns, which Jesus wore as he hung on the cross.



CARING
CONVERSATIONS



WEEK 5

Have everyone tell a story about a time they were lost and then found.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS



Read Luke 15:3-10. Do you know of any sheep that need to be retrieved? How might God use your family?

FAMILY SERVICE



Find a neighbor or someone you know who might need their sidewalks or driveway shoveled.

FAMILY RITUALS
& TRADITIONS



At bedtime, mark each other with the sign of the cross and say: "Remember your baptism."

The Easter Triduum

The term Easter Triduum is the three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ—Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday.

On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper. Jesus gives us the Eucharist and tells us to "Do this in memory of me." He then washes the feet of the apostles. On Good Friday we remember the passion and death of Jesus. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ either at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night or on Easter Sunday morning.

Called by your baptism as a child of God, you are invited to experience the Easter Triduum at Zion.



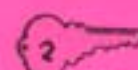
CARING
CONVERSATIONS



WEEK 6

Share about someone who taught you about God's love in a unique way.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS



Read Psalm 150. What does this Psalm suggest to you about ways that you might praise God?

FAMILY SERVICE



Go to a gas station and ask if you can wash someone's car windows.

FAMILY RITUALS
& TRADITIONS



Sing "Jesus Loves Me This I Know" before bedtime each night this week.

The Hebrew people have traditionally served a hard-boiled egg at the Passover meal in the spring. The egg is the Hebrew symbol for eternal life. People in Yugoslavia mark their Easter eggs with XV, which stands for "Christ is Risen".

This Easter, write your name and the symbol XV on your Easter egg to remind you that Christ rose for you.

