

First Sunday in Lent



The Children's Illustrated Bible

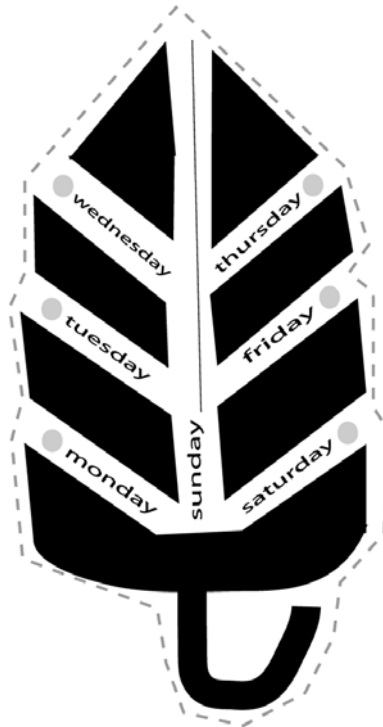
map on pages 180–181

Jesus' Path

The scripture tells about Jesus' baptism and its importance. It represented the beginning of his path and journey. Jesus was baptized before he began his work, but he was preparing for his ministry since his birth. Read Mark 1:9–11 and Doctrine and Covenants 161:7. Explore the map in *The Children's Illustrated Bible* of the path Jesus traveled from birth, to baptism, to his ministry to others. (This is important for the compass activity later.) Kids can act out the script on the KidsPage, memorizing only a short sentence or two. They can even share the drama in the worship service.

Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens open and the Spirit came down like a dove on him. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, my Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

—Mark 1:9–11 adapted



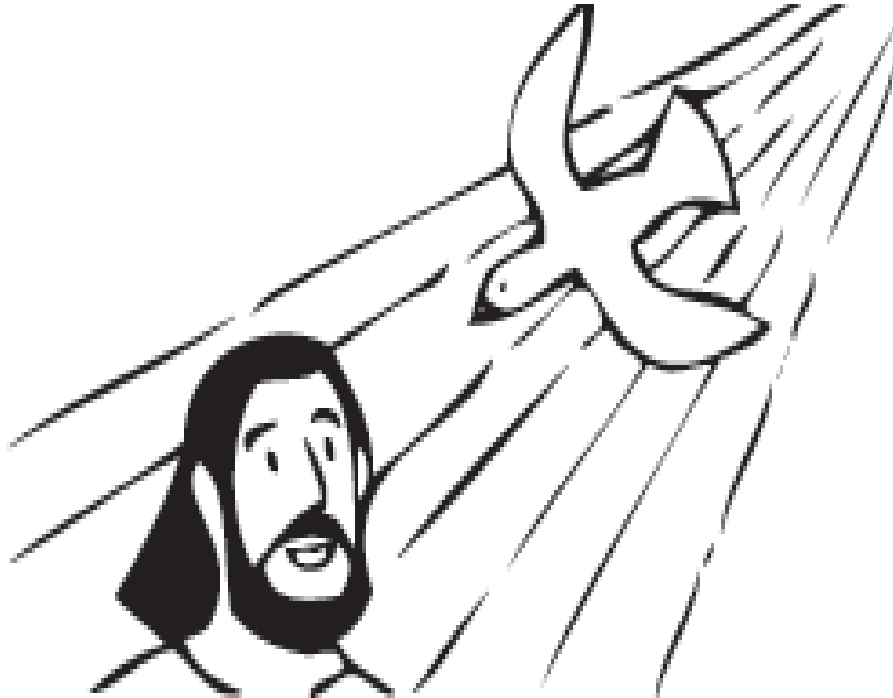
Palm-Path Promises

Create a Lenten palm-leaf calendar to record promises each day of Lent. Make each kid a copy of this palm leaf (or kids may use a real leaf that has fallen to the ground). On the blank line by the word "Sunday," kids write something they wish to live out this week, replacing another activity. For instance, they may replace one hour of television each day with helping a neighbor, saying the dinner prayer, or caring for their pet. As they fulfill their promise, they check off the circle next to the day. Each Sunday of Lent, kids can get a new leaf and commit to the same discipline or try a new one. Assure kids that this is for them only, not to be turned in for class. Read Doctrine and Covenants 161:7 about being on the path.

Compass Points

In worship, a demonstration might show how a compass can be used to guide the way. Read Psalm 25:4. Plan a walk inside or outside the church to take kids on a path to find a place north, south, east, and west. Give each kid, or team of kids, a compass to find their way along the path. At each location, say a prayer as the Native Americans (Indians) do, praying a blessing in all directions. Kids may want to create their own prayer for what they find when traveling to the north, south, east, and west.





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How Jesus Got His Start

Narrator: Jesus was born in Bethlehem under special circumstances. Prophets and angels told people he was coming. A star pointed the way to him. His mother and father were chosen.

Kid 1: (holding a toy baby) He was special from the first day.

Narrator: When Jesus was a young boy, Wise Men traveled a long way to bring him gifts.

Kid 2: (holding a box of gold and bottle of incense) These were unusual gifts for a toddler. They had special meaning.

Narrator: When Jesus was a boy, he went to the temple to ask questions from the priests and impressed them with what he knew.

Kid 3: (watching another kid pantomiming asking questions) He told his parents he was doing his father’s business.

Narrator: When Jesus began his ministry, he was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

Kid 4: (holding a paper dove) The Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove and God said, “This is my son. I’m very pleased with him.”

Narrator: And that’s how Jesus got his start! (All bow.)