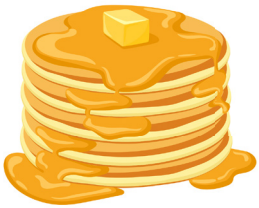


# Explaining Lent to Kids

Celebrating Lent and other seasons in the Christian calendar allows for some really good spiritual rhythms to grow in your household. Lent is celebrated all over the world and throughout many denominations. We want this time in your family to be about Making Space for Jesus. Sometimes giving something up helps us do that by breaking old unhealthy habits and replacing them with prayer, reflection or scripture.



Pancake Tuesday marks the day before the beginning of Lent. Historically people would clean out their cupboards of sugar, flour, eggs and fat (mmmm butter....) to mark the beginning of their fasting tomorrow. You can have a fun pancake dinner on March 1st to chat about Lent and what you'd like to do, change or give up for the next 40 days.

Help kids understand lent by cleaning your refrigerator together! Have kids help you find the expiry dates on jars or salad dressings and sauces. Talk about how our hearts sometimes need a clean out too! There might be some bitterness or unforgiveness that we need to let go of (or some old plum sauce). Or maybe we're holding on to something (like treats or ice cream) for joy instead of holding on to Jesus. Maybe there's some messy places that need a scrub.

Is there a messy spot in your family's routines that you could change over the next 40 days? Maybe mornings are messy and you'll get up 15 minutes earlier so that you can give the kids a good squeeze and a prayer over them before rushing out the door. Maybe after school is a messy spot with everyone a little tired, mostly hungry and needing attention. Could you give up the ipad time in favour of some quiet colouring and thinking about the way you knew Jesus was with you today?

When you're done admire how much more spacious your fridge is! Now there's room for good things. Our hearts are the very same. Lent is about making space in our hearts and schedules for more of Jesus; preparing us for the story of the cross and the hope of the resurrection!

