

World Vision 

# Journey to Easter



## Facilitators guide - Journey to Easter: Stories of Hope for Lent

Thank you for joining with us and many other churches around Aotearoa in observing Lent together in a fresh and meaningful way. Your role as a group facilitator is very important and we appreciate you being a part of it.

This brief guide has been written to help make your job of facilitating the Journey to Easter experience as easy and as meaningful as possible.

Ahead of you is a great journey, and our hope is that through Journey to Easter both you and your small group will experience God in a new way this Lenten season.

### Journey to Easter - an overview

Easter is a celebration of new life made possible through Jesus Christ. It is the miracle that catapults our faith, giving us new meaning. But what comes next? How does Jesus call us to live in light of His sacrifice?

This year, we're inviting churches and small groups to prepare their hearts for Easter in a new way and discover how the miracle of Easter can be lived out year round. Journey to Easter is a reflective journey throughout the season of Lent and Easter. It was designed with community in mind and created with the hope that it would be experienced as a family or in a small group. Journey to Easter is a great way to engage your congregation, young and old.

The main resource for this experience is the Journey to Easter small group booklet which includes stories, scriptures, reflections, experience ideas and prayer points throughout.

### First things first - getting started

#### *Small groups and families*

We recommend the Journey to Easter booklet be worked through in small groups or as a family. We believe it is in this setting you will get the most out of the Journey to Easter experience.

#### *Digital or printed booklets*

The Journey to Easter booklet can be used digitally or printed. The Journey to Easter booklet can be downloaded free from the World Vision website and worked through together from a digital tablet or laptop or printed. You will find the booklet at [www.worldvision.org.nz/connect/events/lent-resources](http://www.worldvision.org.nz/connect/events/lent-resources). If you are printing out booklets for each group member, hand these out at the beginning of the first Ash Wednesday session. Encourage group members to use the booklet during the sessions and for reflection during the week.

### *Dates*

The Journey to Easter experience was designed to be used anytime throughout the week. Consider choosing a specific day of the week for your family or small group to meet and read the week's story, pray and participate in the experience. As a family or group, you'll want to start on Ash Wednesday (14 February) or during Ash Wednesday week, and then meet again weekly, from the week starting 18 February through to Easter Sunday on 1 April.

## **Working through the sessions**

Journey to Easter has been broken up into seven sessions, Ash Wednesday and six weeks of Lent. It concludes with a personal reflection session on Easter Sunday. Over the Lent season, you and your group will step into the stories of some of the world's most vulnerable children and families.

Each session contributes to the overall story of Lent and each session has been designed to be worked through in one sitting.

### *Example session*

Attached is an example of how a Journey to Easter session can be facilitated. Please note this is only an example and booklet sections can be rearranged to best suit your family or group.

### *Session videos*

A video has been created for each week's session giving an overview of the week's focus story. We recommend you play the video at an appropriate point during each session to give the focus story more visual impact. The videos can be played from a mobile, tablet or laptop and video links can be found at [www.worldvision.org.nz/connect/events/lent-resources](http://www.worldvision.org.nz/connect/events/lent-resources).

### *Engage your group*

What makes Journey to Easter so powerful is its experience and action sections. Encourage your group to get behind the experiences and actions suggested in the booklet.

### *Wanting to respond to booklet stories globally?*

For your group or group members compelled to respond to stories globally please click on action links provided on digital copies of booklet or visit [www.worldvision.org.nz](http://www.worldvision.org.nz) for donating or more information.

## **Contact**

Please remember, if you get stuck or have any questions please feel free to contact your regional World Vision Church Partnerships Manager who will be more than happy to help.

**Thank you for journeying with us to Easter!**

## Attachment: session example

| Section                     | Suggestions   | Timeframe    |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| <i>Opening prayer</i>       | start each session with a prayer.   | 2 mins       |
| <i>Focus story</i>          | invite the group to read through the focus story together. Group members can share the reading of the story out loud, it can be read out loud in whole by one group member or it can be read silently by all members at the same time.  | 5 mins       |
| <i>Focus story video</i>    | follow reading the story with the focus story video for the week. This will give the story more impact.   | 3 mins       |
| <i>Scripture</i>            | following the focus story invite the group to read through the scripture using one of the above methods.  | 5 mins       |
| <i>Reflection</i>           | this is something that can be read by you, the facilitator, that brings the story and the scripture together. Another member of the group can read out this reflection if preferred.  | 5 mins       |
| <i>Discussion questions</i> | here you can open up the floor for discussion. There are 3-4 questions included for discussing as a group. Read each question out clearly and ensure you give group members the space to think through and share their thoughts and reflections on the story and scripture they have just digested. | 10 - 15 mins |
| <i>Experience</i>           | the experience section is really what separates this Lent resource apart. Read through the experience and action suggestions and invite group members to think about and discuss how they can live out what they have just digested both as a group and individually.                               | 10 - 15 mins |
| <i>Pray</i>                 | get group members to reflect on prayer points for the week and close session with a prayer.   | 5 - 10 mins  |
|                             | <i>Total session time</i>   | 45 - 60 mins |