



God will wipe all tears from their eyes,
and there will be no more death,
suffering, crying, or pain.
These things of the past are gone forever.
Revelation 21:4

Time can bring you down,
Time can bend your knees.
Time can break your heart,
Have you begging please, begging please.

Beyond the door,
There's peace I'm sure,
And I know there'll be no more
tears in heaven.

Tears in Heaven by Eric Clapton and Will Jennings
Check the web (www.bellaonline.org/articles/art4737.asp) to find
the story behind this song.



TEARDROPS FOR LENT

AN ACTIVITY FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY

[Please note, when photocopying, there is no printing on the reverse of the cover sheet. You may want to put some details of your local program for Lent on these blank pages.]

First week of Easter — April 16–22

***We cry when we are really, really sad
or really, really happy.***

- Talk about any experiences you have had with this kind of crying.
- Read the Easter story: Jesus' resurrection (John 20:1–18 or from a Bible story book)
- Retell in your own words the main things that happened in the story.
- Discuss: Who cried? Why were they crying? I wonder they were crying at the end of the story? If so, what kind of crying was that?
- Learn a word: 'resurrection'. Easter is the story of Jesus' resurrection; his coming back to life. What does this mean for you?
- Pray a TEAR prayer.
 - Thank God for good things you have experienced this week
 - Examine yourself
and confess to God any sins that are on your conscience
 - Ask God to provide what you need in the coming week
 - Rejoice that God loves you and answers your prayer
- Make a painting or drawing or a play dough scene of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Put yourself in the picture.
- Make a tear decoration.
- During the week: Think about the story of Jesus coming back to life for you — the Easter story. What parts of the story make you want to cry? What kind of crying do you want to do?

Lent is the season of six weeks before Easter.

Lent is a time for repentance — recognising that we are sinful and that it is for our sin that Jesus was crucified and died.

The tears of Lent are tears of sorrow and repentance.

Lent is also a time of getting ready for the glorious news that Jesus rose again on Easter —
to give us new life and a new start.

The tears of Easter are tears of joy and acceptance.

Teardrops for Lent is a series of one-a-week activities you can do between March 5 and April 22.

Pick the time to suit your family. If you have other regular devotional times or Bible-reading times together or separately, you may incorporate teardrop activities into what you already do, or add this activity as a special way of observing Lent. You can choose to do any or all the activities during the week.

Teardrop ornaments During the season you can make a set of seven (or more) teardrop-shaped paper ornaments like the ones on the front cover of this leaflet.

For each ornament you will need five strips of paper, all 2 cm wide.

Two long strips — 30 cm (or length of standard photocopy paper)

Two medium strips — 25 cm

One short strip — 22.5 cm.

- Pile up the strips in this order: long, medium, short, medium, long — with one end aligned evenly.
- Staple the strips together 2 cm from the even end.
- At the unstapled end, fold outward the ends of long and medium strips to make fold marks about 2 cm from the ends.
- Align the loose ends of the five strips and staple on your fold mark.
- With a sewing needle pull a thread through the top of your ornament. Tie a loop for hanging.
- Hang your ornaments on a mobile or from a lamp shade or a window frame.

First week in Lent — March 5–11

We cry when someone we love dies.

- Talk about any experiences you have had with this kind of crying
- Read a story: Jesus brings Lazarus to life (John 11:1–44, or from a Bible story book)
- Retell in your own words the main things that happened in the story.
- Discuss: Who cried? Why did they cry? How did they deal with their tears?
- Learn a word: ‘compassion’. In the story, Jesus showed compassion. What does that mean to you?
- Pray a TEAR prayer.
 - Thank God for good things you have experienced this week
 - Examine yourself
and confess to God any sins that are on your conscience
 - Ask God to provide what you need in the coming week
 - Rejoice that God loves you and answers your prayer.
- Make a painting or a drawing of Jesus crying. Put yourself in the picture.
- Make a tear decoration.
- During the week: watch for times when someone in your family cries (or wants to cry). What cause the tears? How do you feel when they cry? How does it help to know that Jesus also cried?

Check the web (www.aboutjesuswept.org/) to find out why a verse from this Bible story has been displayed on public transport busses in Adelaide.

Sixth week in Lent (Holy Week) — April 9–15

We cry when we are sorry about things we have done.

- Talk about any experiences you have had with this kind of crying.
- Read a story: Peter’s Denial (Luke 22:33,34 and 54–62 or from a Bible story book)
- Retell in your own words the main things that happened in the story.
- Discuss: Who cried? Why did they cry? How did they deal with their tears?
- A word to learn: ‘deny’. In the story Peter denied that he knew Jesus. What does this mean to you?
- Pray a TEAR prayer.
 - Thank God for good things you have experienced this week
 - Examine yourself
and confess to God any sins that are on your conscience
 - Ask God to provide what you need in the coming week
 - Rejoice that God loves you and answers your prayer
- Make a painting or a drawing of Peter denying Jesus. Put yourself in the picture.
- Make a tear decoration.
- During the week: Think about different people you have seen crying. Is crying different for babies, children, teen-agers, adults, old people, men and boys, women and girls?

Fifth week in Lent — April 2–8

We cry when we are relieved after a time of tension or fear

- Talk about any experiences you have had with this kind of crying.
- Read from the Bible: 2 Corinthians 7:6–13a
- Retell in your own words the main things that happened in the Bible passage.
- Discuss: In this passage, who might have cried? Why did they cry? How did they deal with their tears?
- Learn a word: ‘repent’. In the Bible passage Paul wrote about people who repented. What does this mean to you?
- Pray a TEAR prayer.
 - Thank God for good things you have experienced this week
 - Examine yourself
 - and confess to God any sins that are on your conscience
 - Ask God to provide what you need in the coming week
 - Rejoice that God loves you and answers your prayer.
- Make a painting or a drawing of Titus telling Paul the good news from Corinth. Put yourself in the picture.
- Make a tear decoration.
- During the week: Watch for times when someone says ‘it’s OK to cry’. When is this a good thing to say to someone who is crying? What else could you say or do?

Second Week in Lent — March 12–18

We cry when we are in trouble and don’t know what to do.

- Talk about any experiences you have had with this kind of crying.
- Read from the Bible: Psalm 6
- Discuss: Why did the person in Psalm 6 cry? What are some words that show how they felt? While they were crying, they were also talking to God. Do you think this is a good idea?
- Learn a word: ‘anguish’. In the psalm the writer feels anguish. What does that mean to you?
- Pray a TEAR prayer.
 - Thank God for good things you have experienced this week
 - Examine yourself
 - and confess to God any sins that are on your conscience
 - Ask God to provide what you need in the coming week
 - Rejoice that God loves you and answers your prayer
- Make a painting or a drawing of the person in Psalm 6 crying. Put yourself in the picture.
- Make a tear decoration.
- During the week: Watch for times when someone at your school or work or club cries (or wants to cry). What causes the tears? How do you feel when you see someone cry? Can crying help the situation?

Third week in Lent — March 19–25

We cry when someone we love is making bad choices.

- Talk about any experiences you have had with this kind of crying.
- Read a story: Jesus cries over Jerusalem (Luke 13:31–35 and 19:41 or from a Bible story book).
- Retell in your own words the main things that happened in the story.
- Discuss: Who cried? Why did they cry? How did they deal with their tears?
- Learn a word: ‘comfort’. Jesus wanted to gather the people the way a mother hen comforts her chicks. What do you think this means?
- Pray a TEAR prayer.
 - Thank God for good things you have experienced this week
 - Examine yourself
 - and confess to God any sins that are on your conscience
 - Ask God to provide what you need in the coming week
 - Rejoice that God loves you and answers your prayer
- Make a painting or a drawing or a play dough sculpture of a mother hen comforting her chicks. Put yourself in the picture.
- Make your tear decoration.
- During the week: Watch for times when someone in a TV show (news or drama), video or in a story book cries (or wants to cry). What causes the tears? How do you feel when you see them cry? How did people around them react to their tears?

Fourth Week in Lent — March 26–April 1

We cry when we see someone being hurt or when we ourselves are hurting

- Talk about any experiences you have had with this kind of crying.
- Read a story: Jesus looks after his mother (John 19:25-27 or from a Bible story book) also read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.
- Retell in your own words the main things that happened in the story.
- Discuss: Who do you think might have been crying? Why did they cry? What did Jesus do about it?
- Learn a word: ‘heartache’. In the story Jesus’ mother’s heart was aching. What does this mean to you?
- Pray a TEAR prayer.
 - Thank God for good things you have experienced this week
 - Examine yourself
 - and confess to God any sins that are on your conscience
 - Ask God to provide what you need in the coming week
 - Rejoice that God loves you and answers your prayer
- Make a painting, a drawing or pop-stick scene of Jesus’ mother and John standing near Jesus’ cross. Put yourself in the picture.
- Make a tear decoration.
- During the week: Watch for times when someone says ‘don’t cry’. When is this a good thing to say to someone who is crying? What else could you say or do?