

# Significant Sacrifice

A N E A S T E R J O U R N E Y

## Activities for Families

Lent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter. Kids love to anticipate special occasions, so they will thoroughly enjoy *Significant Sacrifice for Families*!

### Before Lent begins:

1. Download posters and bulletin inserts to promote *Significant Sacrifice for Families*.
2. Download, print, and color the *Significant Sacrifice* collection jar label. Affix it to a large jar that will hold several hundred coins.
3. Make sure you have several dozen quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies available for the daily giving activities.
4. Download, print, and make the *Significant Sacrifice* paper chain (see instructions on download). The chain contains links for the forty days of Lent. Sundays, often considered “mini Easters,” are not included.

### Beginning the first day of Lent:

1. Every day (except Sundays), tear one link from the bottom of the chain and complete the Bible readings and activities. Use a version of the Bible that your children understand.
2. Collect coins in the container decorated with a *Significant Sacrifice* label.
3. Save the chain links with your answers to the mystery sentences.
4. During or after Easter Sunday, using your answers from the daily activities, write in the letters in the boxes on the cross to decode an important message.
5. Send your donations to Lifewater International, P.O. Box 3131, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93403 or donate online at [www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org). Just \$40 is enough to provide one child with safe water for life, so if you raise that much, you help to transform a life!



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Day: Wednesday, March 9 (Ash Wednesday)

Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:9

Mystery Phrase: God is  \_\_\_\_\_ with us, wherever we go.

Giving Activity: Put 10 cents in the collection jar for each suitcase in your home so that kids in other parts of the world won't have to travel so far for safe water.

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Day: Thursday, March 10

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23:1-4

Mystery Phrase: We do not need to fear, because God  \_\_\_\_\_ us and protects us.

Giving Activity: God has blessed you with life and protected you every day! Give 5 cents for each year of your life so that other kids can live with safe water.

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Day: Friday, March 11

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20

Mystery Phrase: Jesus said to the fishermen, "\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ me."

Giving Activity: Talk about what it means to be a disciple. How many disciples did Jesus have? Give 5 cents for each disciple. Name as many as you can. Are you a disciple of Jesus?

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Day: Saturday, March 12

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:18-19

Mystery Phrase: If a seed is planted in good soil, it \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ and becomes a plant or tree that is full

Giving Activity: of seeds. We want to be good soil, so God's love grows and multiplies in us!  
Put 10 cents in the collection jar for each suitcase in your home so that kids in other parts of the world won't have to travel so far for safe water.



Day: Monday, March 14

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1

Mystery Phrase: When we believe in something we cannot see, we have  \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving Activity: How many sets of eyeglasses and sunglasses do you and your family have? Give 10 cents for each pair. Trachoma and river blindness are illnesses that can cause blindness. There are far fewer cases of these diseases when people have safe water and good sanitation.

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Day: Tuesday, March 15

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:23

Mystery Phrase: Jesus cured people who were sick and told about the  \_\_\_\_\_ news of God's love

Giving Activity: that would change the world.

How many bandaids do you have in your home? Give 5 cents for each one to help kids get clean water and the good news of God's love.

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Day: Wednesday, March 16

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:17-26

Mystery Phrase: Jesus said to the man who had not been able to walk, "Get up and  home."

Giving Activity: Count the pairs of shoes in your home and give 10 cents for each pair. Safe water helps kids not get sick so they too can walk and play.

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Day: Thursday, March 17

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:20-21

Mystery Phrase: Jesus said that the poor, the hungry, and those who cry are \_\_\_\_\_ .

Giving Activity: How many times have you cried in the past two days? Give 25 cents for each time so that children around the world do not have to cry so much because they do not have safe water.



Day: Friday, March 18

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:14-16

Mystery Phrase: Jesus wants our lights to  \_\_\_\_\_ before others.

Giving Activity: Give 5 cents for every light bulb in your home. Your generosity shines the light of hope to others!

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Day: Saturday, March 19

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:25-26

Mystery Phrase: Jesus says that our lives are more than food and our bodies more than  \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Ask your mom or dad how many loads of laundry they do in a week. Give 10 cents for each load in thanks for safe water that makes your clothing clean!

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Day: Monday, March 21

Scripture Reading: John 4:46-53

Mystery Phrase: Jesus  \_\_\_\_\_ the official's son.

Giving Activity: Give 25 cents for each person who lives in your home as a thank you for the life of each one!

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Day: Tuesday, March 22

Scripture Reading: Matthew 8:23-27

Mystery Phrase: Jesus was able to calm the \_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ and the waves of the sea.

Giving Activity: Is it a windy day? Give 50 cents. Is it a calm day? Give one dollar to remember that it is God who cares for us and asks us to help care for others.



Day: Wednesday, March 23

Scripture Reading: Matthew 9:27-30

Mystery Phrase: Jesus gave sight to the  \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Count the number of eyes in your home (pets included!) and give 10 cents for each eye. In many countries, people who cannot see well or who have other disabilities find it very difficult to get water, go to the bathroom, and bathe. Your generosity will help make life easier for some of them by providing safe water and clean bathrooms near their homes.

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Day: Thursday, March 24

Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:49-50

Mystery Phrase: Whoever  \_\_\_\_\_ God's will is part of Jesus' family.

Giving Activity: Name as many people as you can in your church family. Give 5 cents as a thank you for each one of them. Did you know that children across the world who know Jesus are part of your family too?

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Day: Friday, March 25

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

Mystery Phrase: Jesus fed five thousand people with two loaves of  \_\_\_\_\_ and two fish.

Giving Activity: How many slices of bread are in your home right now? Give 2 cents for each slice. Many children eat even less than a slice of bread for many of their meals.

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Day: Saturday, March 26

Scripture Reading: Matthew 17:1-8

Mystery Phrase: On a high mountain, Moses and  \_\_\_\_\_ appeared with Jesus.

Giving Activity: Moses, Elijah, and Jesus were the disciples' greatest heroes. Name one or two of your heroes. Give 25 cents as a thank you for each of these individuals who help you learn and grow. When Lifewater International helps villages get safe water, it teaches people to be leaders who help others. Everyone needs good heroes.



Day: Monday, March 28

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:1-5

Mystery Phrase: Jesus loves the little \_\_\_\_\_ .

Giving Activity: Who is the youngest person you know? Put 50 cents in the collection box to thank God for that child. Helping families get safe water makes it possible for more babies to grow up healthy and strong.

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Day: Tuesday, March 29

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:10-14

Mystery Phrase: Jesus is the good \_\_\_\_\_ .

Giving Activity: In Africa, many people are shepherds. Count the number of pets in your house. Give 50 cents for each pet to help shepherds in Africa get safe water for their families.

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Day: Wednesday, March 30

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:21

Mystery Phrase: Jesus says we should forgive another person seventy- \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ times.

Giving Activity: Put in the collection box one penny for each time Jesus says we should forgive another person. Did you know that many fights throughout history have been over water?

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Day: Thursday, March 31

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:13-15

Mystery Phrase: Jesus blessed the little children and laid \_\_\_\_\_  on them.

Giving Activity: How many children have you seen today? Give 10 cents for each child and remember that Jesus loves them very much.



Day: Friday, April 1

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-10

Mystery Phrase: Jesus entered Jerusalem on a \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  \_\_\_.

Giving Activity: In many parts of the world, donkeys are used to carry water. Put one dollar in the collection box if you have ridden a horse or a donkey. Put 50 cents in if you have never ridden one.

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Day: Saturday, April 2

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-39

Mystery Phrase: The greatest commandment is to love the Lord with our hearts, souls, and minds and to

Giving Activity: love our \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  as ourselves.

How many neighbors can you name? Give 10 cents for each one. If you lived in a place with a neighborhood water well, you would be standing in line with your neighbors for hours every day!

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Day: Monday, April 4

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:7-13

Mystery Phrase: Jesus and his disciples celebrated \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ in the upper room.

Giving Activity: Think of your last meal. How many cups of liquid did your family drink? Give 5 cents for each cup.

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Day: Tuesday, April 5

Scripture Reading: John 13:5-14

Mystery Phrase: Jesus washed his disciples \_\_\_  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ .

Giving Activity: Count the number of feet in your family. Give 5 cents for each foot to remember that we need to always help one another as Jesus said to do.



Day: Wednesday, April 6

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-46

Mystery Phrase: Jesus took a few disciples and went to pray in \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Where is your favorite place to pray in your house? Count the steps from where you are to the place you like to pray. Give 2 cents for each step to help those who pray every day for food and water.



Day: Thursday, April 7

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:47-50

Mystery Phrase: The disciple who gave Jesus away to people who did not like him was \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Give 30 cents to remember the pieces of silver that were paid to the person who gave Jesus away. Sometimes people give away really valuable things for other things that are not valuable at all. For example, people who do not have very much money allow people to cut down trees on their land. When that happens too much, water sources dry up.



Day: Friday, April 8

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:26

Mystery Phrase: Jesus said that the \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ will be last, and the greatest person should be the

Giving Activity: servant of all.

Set a penny, a nickel, a dime, and a quarter on the table. Arrange them in order of importance. Jesus says that all people, no matter how big or small, are loved the same by God. Jesus also says that, no matter how big or small, we should care for one another. Put the coins in the jar. Big or small, you are caring for others!



Day: Saturday, April 9

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:66-72

Mystery Phrase: After Peter denied Jesus, the cock \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Put a dime in for the number of times Peter denied Jesus. We are often like Peter let our fears scare us instead of being strong in Jesus.



Day: Monday, April 11

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:25-26

Mystery Phrase: When Jesus was crucified, a sign above his head said "King of the \_\_\_ \_\_\_  \_\_\_."

Giving Activity: Jesus was a Jew who came to save people from every nation. How many people do you know from other countries? Give 25 cents for each country represented by someone you know.

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Day: Tuesday, April 12

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:44-5

Mystery Phrase: As Jesus was crucified, there was darkness from noon until three o'clock in  the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Give 10 cents for each hour of darkness that followed Jesus' death.

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Day: Wednesday, April 13

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:50-53

Mystery Phrase: Joseph of Arimathea laid Jesus in a  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Do you know people who have died? A child dies every 22 seconds from a disease they catch from dirty water. Give 50 cents to help kids get clean water, and thank God for the clean water you have.

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Day: Thursday, April 14

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-8

Mystery Phrase: When the women went to the tomb they found it  \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Jesus is alive! Give 50 cents as you thank God for the hope we have in Christ.



Day: Friday, April 15

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Mystery Phrase: After rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the  \_\_\_\_\_ to Emmaus.

Giving Activity: How many roads or streets can you name? Give 5 cents for each one. Imagine walking those roads with heavy buckets full of water. Many children carry water for miles every day.

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Day: Saturday, April 16

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36-43

Mystery Phrase: To prove that he had truly risen from the dead, Jesus ate a piece of  \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Do you ever eat fish? If you do, give 50 cents to remember the many people who depend on healthy rivers, lakes, ponds, and oceans for their food and water. If you do not eat fish, do you eat Goldfish crackers? If so, give 50 cents. If you eat neither fish nor Goldfish crackers, give 40 cents.

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Day: Monday, April 18

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:50-53

Mystery Phrase: When Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples were filled with \_\_\_  \_\_\_.

Giving Activity: Think of all the songs you know that contain the word Joy. Give 25 cents for each one, then sing one or two!

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Day: Tuesday, April 19

Scripture Reading: Corinthians 12:12-22

Mystery Phrase: The \_\_\_ \_\_\_  \_\_\_ is the body of Christ

Giving Activity: How many arms, legs, fingers, and toes do you have? The many parts of your body come together to make you! Count the number of fingers in your family and give 2 cents for each one.



Day: Wednesday, April 20

Scripture Reading: John 4:7

Mystery Phrase: As a sign that we know God, we should  \_ \_ \_ one another.

Giving Activity: What are you good at doing? How can you use that talent to help other people? Put 25 cents in the collection box for each of the gifts you have that you can use to help others.

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Day: Thursday, April 21

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Mystery Phrase: Love is patient and  \_ \_ \_.

Giving Activity: Think about the last person you helped. Give 5 cents for each letter of that person's name.

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Day: Friday, April 22

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:6

Mystery Phrase: At the end of time, God will provide living water as a  \_ \_ \_.

Giving Activity: How many faucets do you have in your home? Give 10 cents for each faucet and remember that one day we will thirst no more, for God will provide for all of our needs!

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Day: Saturday, April 23

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-40

Mystery Phrase: Jesus says, "Just as you did it to one of these . . . you did it to  ."

Giving Activity: Who can you help this week? What will you do to help them? You will also help those who thirst by giving the money you saved during Lent so that kids can get safe water!

