

A close-up photograph of several light green marshmallow Peeps against a bright blue background. The Peeps are arranged in a cluster, with some showing small dark spots. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Peeping through Lent

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

**DESIGN BIBLICAL  
DIORAMAS WITH PEEPS!**

Using weekly Lenten scripture readings, marshmallow Peeps and your creativity to bring that week's story to life!

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## **-Peeping Through Lent-**

Scripture Readings and Home Devotional Kit: Included in this kit is a short devotional reading, scripture suggestions, an item representing one of the scripture readings, and marshmallow Peeps. These small items are symbols to focus your meditations and conversations this Lent. The questions are here to start conversation as a couple, on your own, or as a family.

Take time each week to pick up the symbol and read the accompanying scripture. Once you've read that week's reading, pause and reflect. Think about what God may be speaking to you in this time and close in prayer.

### PEEPING THROUGH LENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Then it is time to get the creative juices flowing with the provided Peeps marshmallows candy and item from that week. Design a diorama to tell one of the Biblical stories! You may add more Peeps or additional items, like a shoebox for a room. Manipulate, melt and mold these bunnies and chicks to bring your creative idea to life.

Remember as you are creating your scene, think about stories, who was there, what was the context and how do you see what is happening? This creative time is about making the scripture our own and asking what insights does it have for us today? How, as seeing the scripture anew maybe challenged you to something new this Lent too?

And then share your creation with Rev. Sarah – via email or text.  
Email: [Sbishop@firstpreswh.org](mailto:Sbishop@firstpreswh.org) or (574)298-2295

**A Life Guided by the Word**  
**Lent 2021 – WEEKLY DEVOTIONS**

**Week 1: Wilderness and Abundance – SAND**

**Read: Matthew 4:1-11; Acts of the Apostles 4**

Before Jesus began his public ministry, he went into the wilderness for 40 days and nights to be ‘tempted.’ The early church in Acts, after Peter and John’s strength before the Jewish temple council begun their ministry through sharing of their goods. While Jesus faced deprivation in the face of the tempter, he also stood firm in his call as God’s Son for the salvation of God’s people not power or his own comfort. The apostles of Acts faced similar challenges of by whose power were they healing and showing signs of wonder? Their fellow believers prayed for boldness and were generous in sharing their resources. Think about the stony places in your life that need God’s healing. What wildernesses have you passed through that God has remained faithful? How has or how can God strengthen you to be of ‘one heart and soul’ to share your time, talent, or resources with fellow followers of Jesus?

***Run your fingers through the sand and think upon the wilderness in your life. Place in or next to the container an item the represents abundance in your life.***

## **Week 2: Conversion – FLOWER BULB**

### **Read: Matthew 9:9-13; Acts of the Apostles 9**

Watching a flower bulb grow reminds us of the miracle of hope and transformation that is the promise of Easter and choosing to follow Jesus the Christ. The bulb changes, decaying as it transforms into new life that we can't really imagine or see when it's placed in the ground. Yet, God is at work, the miracle that seems to spring up this time of year reminds us of both the call Jesus has in our lives and the ability to work change through us. Like Saul to Paul, and those times when we've strayed, Christ calls us back into relationship. Or when we think we have it all together, like Matthew at work, Jesus appears to call us into new life. What parts of your life do you see yourself apart from God? Is there a moment when hope sprung up unexpectedly? What transformation are you feeling Christ is at work doing for you this Lent?

***Plant the flower bulb in a location you would notice its growth.***

## **Week 3: Spirit-led – FEATHER**

**Read: Matthew 16:13-20 ; Acts 13:13-41**

The Holy Spirit provides strength and opens ears to hear the words of Paul, Barnabas and Peter as they make powerful declarations about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. And through him salvation is at hand. The church is built through their faithful proclamations to all the lands and all people. How has the Holy Spirit strengthened your faith? What words of exhortation are raising to your lips? What contemporary Christian song or sacred hymn expresses your faith this Lent?

***Hold the feather up and together do this Breathe prayer so that your breath moves the feather. Do the breathe prayer at least three times.***

***Breathe in the Holy Spirit's strength.***

***Breathe out your angst and doubts.***

## **Week 4: Redeemed –ROCK**

### **Read: Matthew 26:36-46; Psalm 31**

Psalm 31 draws strong allusions between the strength of God's righteousness and steadfast love will never forsake us to the strength of stone. That strength is what Jesus calls upon in his prayer at the garden of Gethsemane as he is to face his own mortality. We hear many emotions in Jesus' prayer and also his confidence that God's will be done. What hard places have you faced this year that required Jesus' strength? What words of thanks need to be offered to God as He has been your fortress and safe shelter during storms? Where in your life do you need the words, "Be strong, and let your heart take courage"? Who else needs to hear those words? What places or situations do you need to lift up as needing God's love?

***Hold the rock in your hands as you pray and place in a location to be seen these weeks of Lent.***

## **Week 5: Forgiving –CANDLE**

**Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-25; Matthew 18:10-14**

The Old Testament book of Deuteronomy begins with Moses' words to the people after forty years in the wilderness and they are about to enter the holy land. It is also his farewell speech before death. Like those who left Egypt with Moses, he will not be entering the land but speaks words of guidance for those who will. Just as the lost sheep is relentlessly pursued by the Shepherd, Moses' words reminds the people of God's steadfast love even as they wandered. God will find them and they must always remember, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might." In the darkness and loneliness wanderings God seeks us out and lights again the way. In lighting the candle, what forgiveness do you need to seek from God? From others? From yourself?

***Light the candle and pray together the Lord's Prayer.***



## **Week 6: Psalm Sunday – GREEN CLOTH**

**Read: Romans 1; Matthew 21:1-11**

Jesus entered Holy Week with celebration and a parade, what joy must he have felt as the people cheered, waved palm branches and tossed their colorful cloaks on the road before him. What could the disciples be thinking as people shouted Hosanna and invited their friends to see Jesus? Think about what is it about Jesus that makes you joyful and want to shout praise? Read again Paul's prayer of thanksgiving at the opening of Romans (Romans 1:8-17) and think of who in your life needs also to hear from you the proclamation of Jesus' love?

***Wave the cloth in air and praise God this week. Place the cloth in front of a photo of someone you give thanks to God for in your life.***

## **Week 7: Easter – CROSS**

**Read: Matthew 28:1-10; Romans 8:31-39**

Alleluia! He is risen! We celebrate this joyous morning with bright colors, beautiful lilies and lots of symbols of resurrection- butterflies, empty crosses and easter eggs; life from death. This new beginning in Christ was, as Paul reminds us at a price. With Christ's death and resurrection, we have all received new life and are challenged like the women who found the empty tomb to 'go and tell.' How will you celebrate this Easter and the message of hope? What special symbol do you have in your home or wear or carry with you that reminds you of the Easter promise? Where else in the world are you seeing Resurrection joy?

***Collect all the items from these seven weeks of Lent around your cross and reflect on what each means to you. Choose an item that was most meaningful to you in this Lenten season and reflect on how Easter can transform it. Place all in the provided bag and keep the cross visible as you pray.***

***\*Be sure to share your Peeping dioramas with Rev. Sarah!***