

Roots! Lent for Grandparents (and all Caregivers)

Again this Spring here is a series of ways to connect with your family near or far!

Books for Older Elementary:

Adventures with Waffles by Maria Parr – a book about change and loss and the importance of community. This book provides space for discussions about how we take care of each other and how God takes care of us. The focus on family and community encourages a family activity of naming our own book “Adventures with _____”

The Adventures of Miss Petitfour by Anne Michaels – This book is a series of short tales celebrating small pleasures and all about taking care of each other. In a world where every day can seem to just be a slog towards some unknown future, Miss Petitfour focuses on adventures that fit into “a single, magical day.” A great book for those who may feel a need to escape from the everyday by changing how they see their everyday world.

Books for Preschoolers/Younger Elementary

The spring is a season of change and growth for kids, both in what they see and often how they are feeling and experiencing the world, here are some book suggestions on those topics:

Elephants Can't Dance by Mo Willems – A classic book on discussing different applications for talents.

Bears Don't Read by Emma Clark – Perfect for conversations on the need to practice

The Bad Seed by Jory John – a book about how/why we change

The Busy Beaver by Nicholas Oldland – a book about how other people change

A Splash of Red: The Life & Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant – a great look at being true to who you are called to be

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole by Mac Barnett – an “A” favourite about what happens when the ordinary becomes extraordinary

Emmanuel's Dream: The Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson – What happens when we're forced into a different situation than we thought we would be in?

Some other great Lent, Easter, and spring books with a spiritual side:

Joy Takes Root by Gwendolyn Wallace – A picture book about learning from other generations and our connection to nature where Joy discovers mindfulness in her grandmother's garden.

'Twas the Morning of Easter by Glenys Nellist – The story of the first Easter morning filled with rhythm and rhyme that will remind all of the iconic “'Twas the Night before Christmas”

Little Seeds of Promise by Sana Rafi – The story of Maya who moves to a new place where everything is uncomfortable and unfamiliar. The book reminds us to take risks and allow ourselves to take root and bloom in new places.

Nesting by Henry Cole – A black and white picture book? Trust me, the power of this story about a robin's nest is a picture book for all ages.

Out the Door Blessings: Share these once a week or daily through Lent to your grandkids with phones or to their families before school starts in the mornings!

Week 1: We send you with love, We send you with hope, We send you with peace.

Week 2: You are strong. You are wise. You are God's precious child. You are a blessing.

Week 3: Precious one, God is with you, In the fun, in the challenges, Always.

Week 4: When things are challenging, Or sad, Or fun, Or just too much, Remember you are loved By us and by God.

Week 5: Every person you meet this week Is made in God's image. So are you. And you are precious.

Week 6: When you feel tired, God will sustain you. When you are excited, God celebrates with you. When the tears fall, God is there to comfort you. God loves you, and so do we.

Week 7: Go forth in peace. Go forth in love. Go forth with peace. Go forth with love.

Treat Yo Shelf – Bedtime Stories & Prayers: Join us for 6 Sundays and 6 Wednesdays of Bedtime Stories and Prayers at 7pm Eastern beginning Sunday February 18. Join authors and children ministers from around the country as we share some of our favourite books with everyone via Zoom throughout Lent. Sign up at me.mywpc.org/lentstory

Bonus book for those parents with kids of any age:

The Sacred Pulse: Holy Rhythms for Overwhelmed Souls by April Fiet – A great book for looking at how to reclaim the deeper meaning of life among the frantic patterns of our lives. Through stories, scripture, and practical guidance the book helps us examine twelve rhythms that are both sustainable and sustaining from everyday acts such as mealtime and shopping to the more sporadic rhythms like snow days. It is a reminder that in a world of hustle and bravado, silencing the noise takes practice but we still can find and remind ourselves of the holy movement of God in the world.