

KEEPING A HOLY LENT

Lent is the time we spend getting ready for Easter.

HOW LONG DOES LENT LAST?

There are forty days in Lent. But there are two ways in which we can count those forty days. The first is to begin on Ash Wednesday and end on Easter Sunday. The second is to begin on the First Sunday of Lent and end on Holy Thursday.

In 2010 Ash Wednesday is on February 17th. If Lent ends on Easter Sunday, April 4th, does that make forty days? Let's see:

There are 28 days in February.

How many days from the 17th to the 28th? ____

How many days are there in March? ____

4 days in April: ____

How many altogether? ____

Oops! That's not right!

Count how many Sundays are in Lent ____

Subtract that number from your answer

Did that work?

In 2010 the First Sunday of Lent is on February 21st and Holy Thursday is April 1st. Does that make forty days? Let's see:

There are 28 days in February.

How many days from the 21st to the 28th? ____

How many days are there in March? ____

4 days in April: ____

How many altogether? ____

WHY ARE THERE 40 DAYS IN LENT?

There is a very good reason for having forty days in Lent. The reason can be found by looking up the following references in your bible:

- Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11;
- Mark, chapter 1; verses 12-13;
- Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Forty is an important number in the bible as you will see when you fill in the blanks in these sentences. Match each sentence with the correct bible reference to complete the activity.



It rained for _____ on Noah and his family: Numbers 13:25

The Israelites wandered in the desert for _____ years: 2 Chronicles 9:30

King Solomon reigned for _____: Joshua 4:13

_____ soldiers helped Joshua fight: Genesis 7:11-12

Moses' twelve men spent _____ exploring Canaan: Numbers 32:13

Colour the Picture of Jesus in the Desert



Jesus spent 40 days in the desert