



GO AND...

PAPER CHAINS ACTIVITY

By Deacon Timothy Siburg

Where have you seen God? Where is God showing up in your life? What are examples of new life, or new ideas, that you have witnessed or sensed lately?

These are big open-ended questions. But they could also be good food for thought starters for Lent this year. They might be the starting place for having a conversation with another. They might also be a part of leaning in during Lent and being intentional.

For whatever question(s) grabs your attention, invite your whole congregation to participate in this activity this Lenten season!

Instructions:

- Using any color of construction paper that your congregation would like, cut sheets of paper into strips that can be used to make paper chains.
- Invite the disciples in the congregation to respond to these questions as part of the Lenten journey.
- For every answer they might have to this question, invite a disciple to write each separate answer down on a strip of paper.
- Create a station or place within your church to receive the paper strips. This might be a table or bin in the narthex.
- Or, take the strips as they come directly to the altar or altar rail and begin making a chain. Connecting each strip as they come by making the strips into interlocking loops and creating a chain. To make a loop, take a strip, and place it around another. Secure the strip as a circle with either tape or a staple, and you should be all set. If taking this approach, make sure there is a space for the tape or stapler so people can easily access it.
- If receiving the strips outside of the worship space, consider how you will use them and display them.

Making it Visual:

A suggestion: as part of your congregation's Lenten journey, begin assembling the strips as a growing chain. Perhaps a powerful image of this process could be to begin the chain near the altar or communion rail, and then continue to add to it through Lent. By Easter, you might have a very colorful and long chain displaying countless examples of God showing up and signs of new life in Christ. As part of the Easter liturgy, celebrate the growth of the chain and give thanks in the prayers or the liturgy of the day by witnessing to the various witness and experience of God's on-going presence and new life in Christ today.

Need More Ideas or Have Questions? Want to share your story about this idea?

Reach out to Deacon Timothy Siburg at timothy@nebraskasynod.org. And share your story with the Nebraska Synod by emailing goand@nebraskasynod.org.