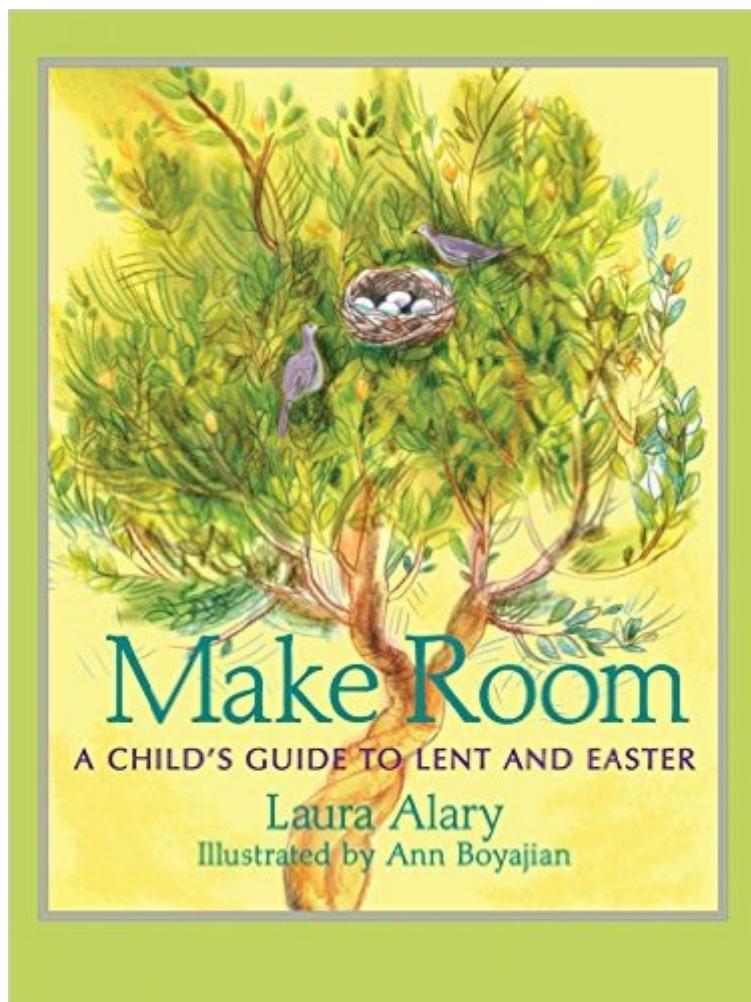


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# Make Room: A Child's Guide To Lent And Easter



## **Synopsis**

While the Advent season is filled with fun and expectations, Lent can be hard for children. Itâ™s travels through frightening places, loaded with themes of self-denial and death. How can children approach this season in a way that is meaningful and not frightening? Make Room presents Lent as a special time for creating a welcoming space for God. Other books offer excellent ideas for going through the Lenten season with children, but Make Room uniquely connects its projects to the story of Jesus. Simple and practical activities such as baking bread, having a neighbor over for dinner, uncluttering your room, and watching less TV become acts of justice and kindness, part of a life of following and imitating Christ, and a way to make room for God in our lives and in the world around us. Other books tell the Passion narrative for young readers; this unique book integrates themes of hospitality and self-giving that echo Jesusâ™ ministry, Jesusâ™ entire life. Make Room invites children to wonder about the story, to encounter Lent with all their senses, and to experience activities in Lent as part of a life of discipleship.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 32 pages

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Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #479,541 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Holidays > Easter & Lent #201 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Children's Ministry #586 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Education > Children & Teens

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Lent comes early this year, it starts on February 10th. I'm already thinking about what my Lenten practices will be, but as a father of four I haven't always done so well on opening up Lent for my kids. Making Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter by religious educator and children's author

Laura Alary, explores Lent and Holy Week in accessible ways for young children. Illustrations from Ann Boyajian adorn each page. *Making Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter* by Laura Alary and Illustrated by Ann Boyajian Four headings guide kids toward a meaningful experience of Lent and Easter: Making Time, Making Space, Making Room and Holy Week. Alary begins with a description of how in the church, Lent is a season of waiting before whisking us off to the wilderness where Jesus made time to be with God. Likewise, she encourages kids to make time for God by reading the bible, wondering what God is telling us and asking ourselves probing questions about the life we are living (9). She then talks about Jesus' teaching of the kingdom and what it means to make space for God in our life: This how you make space: If you have done wrong, tell God you are sorry. Sweep your heart clean and start fresh. Be kind to all people, not just the ones who like you. Open your heart wide. If someone hurts you ask God to help you forgive. Do not store angry thoughts. Let them go. Make space inside for better things. Share so everyone has enough. If you have two coats give one to someone who has none. Make space for what really matters .

Growing up I was unfamiliar with Lent as our church did not observe the church year. When I did hear individuals speak of Lent much later as a college student, the context was typically the question "What are you giving up for Lent?" As an adult, I learned more about the church year and try to observe it personally and with my family. However, the sticking point has always been how to explain Lent to my children and observe it in a meaningful way in a congregation which doesn't practice Lent. Seeking out books about Lent was difficult as many required explanations of unfamiliar practices or terminology. Enter Laura Alary's new book *Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent*. *Make Room* is a picture book for children. Right away several things caught my attention. To begin, Alary arranges her book around the themes of Make Time, Make Space, and Make Room as ways to get ready while waiting for Easter and leading up to Holy Week. Each section begins with a text, anchored in an example from Christ's life or teaching, followed by practical examples presented in an engaging and winsome manner which children and families can accomplish. This emphasis on making Jesus a priority, rather than giving up something, is refreshing. The text does include examples of turning off the TV and giving away items you no longer need, but the emphasis is always on doing so in order to make room in your life and heart for Christ and becoming more Christ-like in the process. In a picture book, the text and pictures are equally important. The pictures by illustrator Ann Boyajian are beautiful water color illustrations which complement each section. The illustrations depict children actively engaged in the activities mentioned in the text.

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