Ka Mōhai Aloha- The Gift of Grace or the Gracious Sacrifice.

The Season of Lent is a time that we use to reflect on the gracious gift that God gave to us in His Son Jesus Christ. We celebrated his birth at Christmas and now at Easter, we mark his death. But unlike us humans, for whom physical death is final, Christ's death was not. On the third day after Jesus was crucified, he was resurrected or rose again. This was a sign to us that we too will rise again. That life in Christ is eternal. The Season of Lent is designed to help us to reflect on what that gift truly means to us and how we might be better people while we still have the chance.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter, lasting for 40 days (not counting Sundays). There are a variety of practices that the different faith groups have used to prepare for Easter. Some will give up something such as candy, sweets, ice cream or even meat. Others might add something to bolster their faith life, like prayer. For me, I'll usually turn off my car radio on my way to work and use that time to pray. That’s 30 minutes talking with my Heavenly Father. Do whatever will work for you to strengthen your faith.

For these series of devotionals, we asked some of the leaders, faculty and staff of the various Kamehameha Schools programs to share their mana'o of what Lent means to them. We hope this will provide you strength and encouragement during this special time.

Looking forward to Easter!
Nā Kahu Kordell Kekoa and Kalani Wong

Here are a few kid friendly web pages on Lent:
- [http://brightsadness.org/kids.html](http://brightsadness.org/kids.html)

Did you know…
…that the date of Easter changes every year? Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.

…the day before Ash Wednesday is called a “Fat Tuesday” or “Shrove Tuesday”? In some places, pancakes are served. Here in Hawai‘i, malasadas are a tasty treat eaten by all. What else is that Tuesday known as?

…the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made from burning the palms used on Palm Sunday the year prior?

…there are a number of events in the Bible that last 40 days including the amount of time that Jesus spent in the wilderness? What are the others?
Heluhely Baibala/Scripture Reading

20 A ia ia i kahi lōʻihi aku, ike akula kona makua kāne ia ia, hū aʻela kona aloha, holo akula ia, apo akula i kona āʻi, a honi akula ia ia.
21 I maila ke keiki ia ia, E ka makua, ua hana hewa aku wau i ka lani, a iā oe, ʻaʻole e pono ke kapa hou ia mai he keiki nāu.
22 Akā, ʻi akula ka makua i kāna mau kauwā, E lawe mai i ka ʻaʻahu maikaʻi loa, a e hōʻaʻahu aʻe ia ia; a e hoʻokomo i ke komo lima ma kona lima, a me nā kāmaʻa ma kona mau wāwae;
23 A e lawe mai hoʻi i ke keiki bipi i kūpalu ʻia, e kālu; a e ʻai kākou me ka ʻoliʻoli;
24 No ka mea, ua make kēia keiki aʻu, a ua ola hou mai nei; nalowale akula hoʻi ia, a ua loaʻa mai nei.- Luka 15:20-24

20 "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
21 "The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’
22 "But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ - Luke 15:20-24

Manaʻo

Lent is a season of prayer and fasting, forgiveness and change and also a time for us to reflect on how amazing God’s love for us is. As we see the day of the Lord approaching, encourage one another. In these days let our love for God motivate us to repentance, forgiveness and a godly love for one another as we live a lifestyle that reflects our love for God.

As we live life, not all decisions that we make may line up with God’s desires, but he’s always willing to give us another chance at a new beginning. The story of “The Prodigal Son” really fits this season.

The story of the “Prodigal Son” from Luke 15:11-32, is a story of a man with two sons. The story begins with the younger son asking his father for his portion of the inheritance. After spending all his money on wild living, he finds himself now in great need. During this time, a famine breaks out through the land and the lack of work made things very difficult.

He began to remember the abundance he had being with his father, so he decided to go back home. As he approached his home although still a ways off, his father sees him coming and is filled with compassion for his son. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The father was so joy filled, that he called to his servants and said, bring the best for my son and let’s have a feast to celebrate his return, for we thought he was dead and find he’s alive, he was lost and now he’s found.
This story is one that many of us may be able to relate to, how we were on our own journey separated from God the Father at one time. But when we turned back to him, he received us with such compassion and love, and through Ka Mōhai Aloha, the gift of grace, we are restored to being his children. Let this season be one that finds us either drawing closer to him or even better yet finding ourselves returning to an intimacy with the God who loves us through Jesus His Son. Amen.

Questions to Ponder
- Where was the son when his father saw him? What did the father do when he saw him? Hint- see verse 20
- Is that the reaction of a person who was stubborn and angry or hopeful and forgiving?
  - That’s the response that God has for us when we realize that we were wrong and come back to him.
- Is there someone that you need to be looking out for so you can shower them with your love and forgiveness?

Pule

O God of grace and mercy, we mahalo you for your love which overlooks our failings. We thank you for your forgiveness when we have wronged you. Help us to be willing to forgive those who have hurt us. Keep us always close by your side. Ma ka inoa o Iesū Kristo. ‘Āmene.