Mahlet loves school. She says “School is the centre of knowledge. If you are knowledgeable, you will grow. I would like to study medicine to be a doctor and to help others.” At school, Mahlet is more likely to do well in her studies because she is more conscious of her future. She enjoys going to school and says “School is the centre of my life.” She dreams of living in peace and comfort with her family in the city one day.

Mahlet’s village in the last year. Very little rain has fallen in Ethiopia. There is very little grass for the animals to eat. Mahlet walks for hours for hours to find grass for the animals to eat. She enjoys going to school and reading. She helps her father look after their animals. Mahlet and her brother look after their family’s animals.

Mahlet is 13 years and lives in a small village in northern Ethiopia. She enjoys going to school and reading. She helps her father look after the animals at home. Mahlet has a very little rain has fallen in Mahlet’s village in the last year. There is very little grass for the animals to eat. Mahlet walks for hours for hours to find grass for the animals to eat. She enjoys going to school and reading. She helps her father look after their animals. Mahlet and her brother look after their family’s animals.

Mahlet and her brother look after their family’s animals. They like to care for the animals. The animals provide meat and milk. Mahlet and her brother care for the sheep to eat. Before school, they shear the sheep for wool. After school they chop up the cactus and give it to the sheep.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them: “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you why you are doing this, reply, ‘The Master has need of it and will send it back here again.’”

They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do so. So they brought the donkey to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus answered, “This voice has come from heaven: ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The angels said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Philip went and told Andrew, Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.”

Mahlet’s story
Mahlet loves school. She says “School is the centre of knowledge. If you are knowledgeable, you will grow. I would like to study medicine to be a doctor and to help others.” At school, Mahlet is more likely to do well in her studies because she is more conscious of her future. She enjoys going to school and says “School is the centre of my life.” She dreams of living in peace and comfort with her family in the city one day.

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SECOND WEEK OF LENT
GOSPEL (Mk 9:2-10)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him. They went up on a high mountain, where they could see all the future. In front of them, Jesus stood alone. Then he was changed in appearance. His clothes became very bright. After this, two men appeared beside him: Moses and Elijah. They were talking to Jesus. Then Moses and Elijah disappeared. Jesus said to Peter, “You must not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

MEDITATION

Dear Creator, thank you for creating the world! You made heaven and earth, mountains and forests, streams and oceans. You designed everything with care and love. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to live in such a beautiful world. Help us to appreciate and care for the environment around us. Amen.

QUESTIONS

• What is your favorite place in nature?
• What do you like to do in nature?

ACTIVITY

Create a Superhero badge that can be worn for the week. Everybody must commit to doing one good thing for the environment, eg. turning off the lights every time they leave a room. Simply cut out the ‘Superhero Badge’, write your commitment, colour it in bright colours, stick a safety pin on the back of it and wear it with honour for the week.

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT
GOSPEL (Jn 3:16-17)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to Nicodemus: “God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to judge its people. He sent him to save them!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MAHLET’S STORY

Mahlet lives in a village called Sebeya. This is in a mountainous area on the border of two countries, Ethiopia and Eritrea. It probably looks like the mountains you have seen on TV. The lands are dry and dusty. You can see crops only if water is brought from far away. It has not rained in Mahlet’s village in a long time. Last year it rained just three times. This has made the ground become hard and dusty. You can see the tracks in the dust. It is very difficult for Mahlet and her family to get water. They must walk a long way to find water. They need water to drink, to cook food, and to water their fields. The water in the village is very dirty. It is not safe to drink. People have to boil the water before they can drink it. They need money to buy clean water from others.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

• What struck you the most about your visit to Sebeya village?
• What would you like to change in the village?

ACTIVITY

Create a ‘Superhero’ badge that can be worn for the week. Everybody must commit to doing one good thing for the environment, eg. turning off the lights every time they leave a room. Simply cut out the badge, colour it in bright colours, stick a safety pin on the back of it and wear it with honour for the week.

ACTIVITY

Find the following in the word search opposite: FAITH, JESUS, JUDGE, LIFE, MAHLET, RAIN, SAVE, WATER.

DID YOU KNOW

Ethiopia is the only country in Africa with its own alphabet.