

Wednesday *The Second temptation*

Read Luke 4:5-8

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. The devil offers to make Jesus the ruler of the world. Why would Jesus not want that?
2. What does it mean to worship and serve only God?

Prayer Focus

Gracious One, remind us again of who we are and to whom we belong. Help us recall that there can only be one God to order our lives and guide our steps.

Thursday *The third temptation*

Read Luke 4:9-11

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Are there ways that worldly things distract us or distance us from pain or the fear that we won't have enough?
2. What do you think would happen if Jesus had said yes to this temptation?

Prayer Focus

God of all creation, we are often tempted to let the world fill us with doubts and fears. We let the world distract us and send us running after material things. Keep calling to us, God, so that we know how to turn back to you.

Friday *Jesus' final answer*

Read Luke 4:12-13

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Jesus refuses to prove that God is watching over him. Why?
2. What has Jesus gained from his wilderness time that will guide him in the coming days?

Prayer Focus

Saving God, lead us not into the wilderness of temptation. Help us focus on you, so that in our rush to get what the world offers, we remember that we are here to serve as your hands and feet in a world that needs to know your love.

In the Wilderness

Full of the Holy Spirit, Jesus goes into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Early on in his ministry, Jesus goes out into the wilderness alone, because it is in solitude that we can confront our greatest temptations. What is it that waits for you in solitude? Can you trust that God is with you, even when you face trial? "Solitude is the furnace of transformation" - Nouwen: Way of the Heart

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share briefly what you know about Lent and Lenten practices. Do you do anything special during Lent?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Luke 4:1-13

- Have someone read **Luke 4:1-13**. Discuss observations about the text.
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

March 10, 2019



First Sunday in Lent: In the Wilderness

Wilderness - n. an uncultivated, uninhabited, or inhospitable region; a neglected or abandoned part of a garden or town; in Christian theology, wilderness can signify both a period of trial and a time of isolation which facilitates a deepening of one's spiritual devotion. The blessings and difficulties of wilderness are manifold, but regardless, the wilderness is a place where God is readily present.

Monday *Jesus enters the wilderness*

Read Luke 4:1-2

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Jesus goes straight from his baptism into the wilderness. Why would the Holy Spirit lead him there?
2. Has there been a wilderness time of testing or temptation in your life? Did you believe that God was present there with you?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, you taught us to pray that we will not be led into temptation, that we not be left alone to face our challenges. Thank you for showing us that you know what it is like to be tempted and that you understand the trials we face.

Tuesday *The first temptation*

Read Luke 4:3-4

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. The devil shows he knows Jesus is the Son of God. How is this important when we read this story?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says "one does not live by bread alone?"

Prayer Focus

Reflect on what it means to be nourished and what it means to be hungry, both in the body and in the spirit. Pray for the wisdom to remember Jesus' words, even in the wilderness.