

Wednesday

Read Luke 13:33 *Jesus speaks about his future*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. What did Jesus mean when he said that a prophet could not be killed outside of Jerusalem? What does this say about Jerusalem at that time?
2. Why is Jesus determined to get to Jerusalem even though his life is threatened?

Prayer Focus: God of All Wisdom, tell us again what it means to be determined to fulfill your desires. Give us courage to face whatever might be coming our way. Give us the humility to say your will, not ours.

Thursday

Read Luke 13:34 *Jesus mourns for Jerusalem*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. What does it mean to you when Jesus says he wants to be like a hen protecting her chicks? What would it mean to rest in the shadow of Jesus' caring and protection?
2. Jerusalem was a wilderness that was inhospitable to Jesus. How are we still like Jerusalem?

Prayer Focus: Jesus, we recognize the ways in which we reject you even when you offer us what we crave most: healing, love, and connection. Help us return to the safety of your wings and to change the way of our hearts.

Friday

Read Luke 13:35 *What will happen to Jerusalem*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How do we see Jesus in our world, our lives today?
2. What does it mean to say "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord?"

Prayer Focus: In the season of Lent, God, as we retell the story of your last days, help us to hear how much you love us. Help us to welcome your love into our lives, and to show others the gift of your great love.

Wilderness

The Lament Over Jerusalem

Jesus goes on his way to another place outside of Jerusalem, so that he can continue his good work.

In this story, a harbinger of Good Friday, Jesus reminds us that even the most populated places can be wilderness. Where do we see the wilderness of inhospitality in our present day?

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What does hospitality mean to you? Is there someone you know who has shown you a welcoming spirit?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on

- Have someone read **Luke 13:31-35**. 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 24, 2019

Wilderness: Lament Over Jerusalem



Monday

Read Luke 13:31 *A warning to Jesus*

31 *At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Why would the Pharisees want to warn Jesus about Herod?
2. What was Jesus saying or doing that would make Herod want to kill him?

Prayer Focus: Jesus, you faced death threats and hatred for your teachings. The world was not hospitable toward you even as you spoke of love and went about healing people. This Lent help us to remember the full truth of your journey to Jerusalem.

Tuesday

Read Luke 13:32 *Jesus replies to the threat*

32 *He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work."*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Why does Jesus call Herod a fox?
2. Jesus tells the Pharisees to give Herod his schedule. What does Jesus want Herod to know about how he will spend the upcoming days?

Prayer Focus: Reflect on what Jesus said to the people who wanted to get rid of him. Give thanks that he chose to do his work right up until the very end. Ask for the courage and strength to do God's work no matter what.

