

Week 1
17 Feb - 27 February 2021

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



The BAPTISM and testing of JESUS



LECTIONARY YEAR B
17 Feb 2021 - 3 April 2021

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:

Lectionary year B - Lent and Holy Week – 17 Feb to 3 April

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| WEEK 1 | 17 February (Ash Wednesday) to 27 February (Saturday)
Sunday 21 February - The Baptism and testing of Jesus – Kamogelo Monoametsi |
| WEEK 2 | Sunday 28 February to Saturday 6 March – What church is all about – Gavin Landers |
| WEEK 3 | Sunday 7 March to Saturday 13 March - Jesus clears the temple courts – Kedibone Mntambo |
| WEEK 4 | Sunday 14 March to Saturday 20 March – God loved the world – Xhanti Mhlubulwana |
| WEEK 5 | Sunday 21 March to Saturday 27 March – Jesus predicts His death – Thoko Mbense |
| WEEK 6 | Sunday 28 March (Palm Sunday) to Saturday 3 April (Holy Week) – The death of Jesus – Lusi Badi |

Join us for 40 DAYS OF PRAYER. The booklet is available on the BMC website. Make sure you receive the BMC Newsletter – In Touch – or are connected to our WhatsApp Group to get daily reminders. If not, please contact Kerry kerryw@bmc.org.za

WEEK 1: The baptism and testing of Jesus

17 February (Ash Wednesday) to
27 February (Saturday)
Sunday 21 February



START YOUR DAY WITH
Devotionals Daily



Wednesday ASH WEDNESDAY	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
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Memory Verse:

Create in me a clean heart O God and put a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Prayer:

Our loving God, you know me inside and out. You know when I sleep and when I am awake. Make me aware of your spirit today in a very real way. I am open to your prompts. Amen.

Thursday	18 Feb	Psalm 25:1-10	Daniel 9:1-14;	1 John 1:3-10
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Memory Verse:

Show me your ways, LORD teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25: 4-5

Prayer:

Thank you, God, that you always prepare the path for me. Help me to see the road markings as I live close to you today. Amen.

Friday	19 Feb	Psalm 25:1-10	Daniel 9:15-25a	2 Timothy 4:1-5
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Memory Verse:

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. Psalm 25: 8-9

Prayer:

My Lord and Saviour, I adore you. Keep me humble to today as I step into your will. Help me see every situation through your eyes. Amen.

Saturday	20 Feb	Psalm 25:1-10	Psalm 32	Matthew 9:2-13
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Memory Verse:

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good. Psalm 25:7

Prayer:

Lord, you know what is happening in my life. You know my weak spots and my dark side. Thank you for loving me despite myself. Amen.

Monday	22 Feb	Psalm 77	Job 4:1-21	Ephesians 2:1-10
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Memory Verse:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, His love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34

Prayer:

Dear God, I am once again reminded that our relationship is forever and that you love me always. I praise you God and I am so glad that you keep on trying to bring me back when I stray.

Tuesday	23 Feb	Psalm 77	Job 5:8-27	1 Peter 3:8-18a
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Memory Verse:

I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, it is not easy to stand strong against temptation. In fact, it is often overwhelming. I cannot do this without you. Please help me press on towards the goal. Amen.

Wednesday	24 Feb	Psalm 77	Proverbs 30:1-9	Matthew 4:1-11
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Memory Verse:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer:

Dear Lord, my controlling nature often overrides my heart. Please help me to accept that I do not have all the answers and that I need to wait on you. Amen.



Thursday	25 Feb	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18	Romans 3:21-31
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Memory Verse:

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' John 13:35

Prayer:

Jesus, you are my example. Help me to love others as you love me! Amen.

Friday	26 Feb	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 16:1-6	Romans 4:1-12
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Memory Verse:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Prayer:

Thank you, my God, that I know that I will spend eternity with you! Amen.

Saturday	27 Feb	Psalm 22:23-31	Genesis 16:7-15	Mark 8:27-30
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Memory Verse:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer:

Lord God, help me to day to continually praise you in all I say, do and think about. Amen.

Sunday 21 February

- First Reading: [Genesis 9:8-17](#)
- Psalms: [Psalm 25:1-10](#)
- Second Reading: [1 Peter 3:18-22](#)
- Gospel: [Mark 1:9-15](#)



Mark 1:9-15

The baptism and testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' ¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.



Jesus announces the good news

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'

WORSHIP

YouTube (No Longer Slaves (Official Lyric Video) - Jonathan David and Melissa Helser | We Will Not Be Shaken <https://youtu.be/f8TkUMjtK5k>

FOR REFLECTION:

DAILY DEVOTIONS, REFLECTIONS AND SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY REV KAMOGELO MONOAMETSI

Is there a way in our spiritual experiences wherein we can have a deeper relationship with God without the desert? Imagine a Christian journey and ministry without hardships, trials, temptations, and tests, how will that journey be, boring dull, and not helpful? It is inherent in human nature that our strong characters, strength, and ability to live beyond the odds and challenges is refined in dark and difficult times. We take after Jesus that the desert is an indispensable aspect of the journey, the journey to a deepened faith with God, the journey to self-discovery, the journey to becoming a faithful disciple of Christ. Admittedly we are afraid of the desert because it exposes our inability to deal and face the worst in us, the issues we do not want to confront and deal with, the scars and wounds of the past that are not resolved. Perhaps our avoidance of



the desert and ways to run away from it because it takes us out of our comfort zones appears to be the best way out. But we are missing out on the opportunity for growth into Christ-like character?



Follow the allegorical structure of Mark 1:9-13, verses 9-11 points out the affirmation of Jesus Ministry and calling to serve the vision of God's Kingdom. This affirmation is crucial for his ministry to solidify his character and identity for public witness and proclamation of the gospel. The following verses 12-13 are more about God who allows characters and identities to be tested. It is worth mentioning that there is no possible faithfulness to God's service without characters being tested, Jesus is the classical example of that. Mark's understanding of the desert (*heremon*) means a deserted and lonely place. If we need to follow Christ, we firstly follow him in the desert. Embrace the desert that you are experiencing at the moment.

Small Group Questions:

1. Thinking about the baptism of Jesus and his temptation. What does being baptized as a Christian mean for you in relation to Jesus Baptism? What does being baptized by the Spirit mean for you as a disciple of Christ?
Fa o nagana ka kolobetso ya Jesu le go lekwa ga gagwe. Kolobetso ya bokreste e kaya eng mo go wena? Go kolobediwa ka Mowa o o boitshepo go kaya eng mo go wena jaaka morutuwa wa ga Kreste?
2. The voice came from heaven saying, this is my Son in whom I am well pleased. How can our lives be pleasing to God? What does being the Son and daughter of God mean for you?
Lentswe le tswile kwa legodimong le re, o ke Morwa wa me yok e itumedisiwang ke ene. Re ka dira jang gore matshelo a rona a itumedise Morena? Go kaya eng go bidiwa Moradi le Morwa Wa Modimo?
3. When you are faced with temptations, how do you deal with them?
Fa o lebane le diteko, o dira najng go feta mo go tsone?
4. Identify prevalent temptations that people are faced with in our time and reflect on how people's ability can be strengthened so that are able to deal with them.
Neelana ka diteko tse batho ba shebanang le tsone thata mo matshealong a bone, o neelane le ka tsela eo re nonofatsang batho ka gone go shebana le diteko tseo.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY THABANG JANUARY – YOUTH PASTOR
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Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment: Decide as a family to give something up for Lent

- Everybody hands in their electronic devices after 7pm.
- No one watches TV/Netflix/Social Media after 6pm.
- There will be no sweets or chocolates in the week.

The goal is to replace these times with Godly moments. In quiet contemplation, in prayer, listening to Gospel music.

