



Week 1
6 - 12 March 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

LENT & HOLY WEEK



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions



Ash
Wednesday

DAILY READINGS

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

DAILY READINGS



Thursday, March 3: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34

Friday, March 4: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 6:1-13; Acts 7:35-42

Saturday, March 5: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36

Week 1 – 6 March

JESUS TESTED IN THE WILDERNESS



First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13



Praise and Worship: Give thanks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk_7wUR2Wdg

Luke 4:1-13 New International Version – UK

Jesus is tested in the wilderness

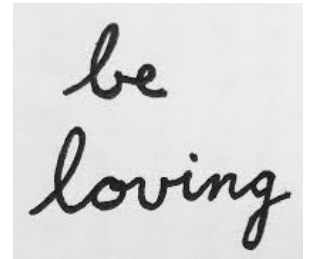
⁴ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."' ⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."' ⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ¹² Jesus answered, 'It is said: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Reflection the Scripture by: REV GAVIN LANDERS

There is a real danger in offering ourselves to this world in all our giftedness over a long period of time. There is a real danger to receive others on the basis of their giftedness. To refer to oneself or frame oneself with the things we can do and show and prove and build puts us at a certain risk. To engage with one another on the basis that I offer my giftedness and receive your giftedness in exchange reduces you and me to what is essentially a capitalist exchange of our lives. I have these gifts – they are valuable, do you want to buy me or can you afford me? Or these are the gifts I'm shopping for, do you have them or are you going to be a disappointing purchase?

To live like this is to starve our souls of substance; it is to put our souls at risk of being empty. Offering ourselves in all our giftedness to others over a long period of time leads to an inner death of our being.

Jesus' first temptation was to turn stone into bread, to do something spectacular and eye catching that would make a name for himself... Jesus would make a name for himself, but not through winning people over through anything that He could do, but by being who He is.



Henri Nouwen says that *"There is a temptation to achieve great things for God **rather** than respond first to a love which Jesus has first given us; to be spectacular rather than humble in being conscious of our frailty and limitations; to be powerful rather than just to be – be loving, be of service, be sacrificially for others; to be completely open and vulnerable to offer love and to receive love on a daily basis regardless of any achievement on your part or on mine."*

My prayer is that before we offer any gift to this world, may we, like Jesus, in all humility be loving and of sacrificial service. May we be open and vulnerable to offer love and to receive it regardless of any achievement on your part or on mine; regardless of any frailty or limitations on your part or mine.

Amen

Small Group Questions:

1. What are some of the human exchanges that happen off the platform of human giftedness or achievement?
2. Share one exchange off the platform of human giftedness or achievement you have had? How did you feel about this exchange?
3. Respond to the idea that offering ourselves in all our giftedness to others over a long period of time leads to an inner death of our being.
4. What is the difference between a person who live by what they do versus a person who lives a life of being? Which person do you relate to most in your living?
5. Pray around the quote by Henri Nouwen above.



Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:

MONDAY, March 7: [Psalm 17](#); [1 Chronicles 21:1-17](#); [1 John 2:1-6](#)

Memory Verse: “Who claims to live in Jesus must live as Jesus did” (1 John 2:6)

Prayer: Lord God, when you examine me, may you find me true, disciplined, obedient and steadfast. Amen

TUESDAY, March 8: [Psalm 17](#); [Zechariah 3:1-10](#); [2 Peter 2:4-21](#)

Memory Verse: “I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” (Zech 3:4)

Prayer: Lord, as we read your story in Scripture, we become aware that you know how to rescue and save the godly from godless situations. Help me trust you in my godless circumstances. Amen

WEDNESDAY, March 9: [Psalm 17](#); [Job 1:1-22](#); [Luke 21:34-22:6](#)

Memory Verse: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised. ²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.” (Job 1:21-22)

Prayer: Father, as your Kingdom nears, may I dwell on Your Word and remain alert in order to escape the trappings experienced in this world. Amen

THURSDAY, March 10: [Psalm 27](#); [Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18](#); [Philippians 3:2-12](#)

Memory Verse: “What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things” (Phil 3:8).

Prayer: God take me in. Point me down your highway; direct me along a well-lighted street. Don’t abandon me. Show me Your goodness in the exuberant earth. Amen

FRIDAY, March 11: [Psalm 27](#); [Genesis 14:17-24](#); [Philippians 3:17-20](#)

Memory Verse: “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Phil 3:20-21).

Prayer: Lord of light and salvation, be my stronghold and protect me from all that I fear. May I dwell in your house and gaze on your beauty as I seek you in worship. Amen

SATURDAY, March 12: [Psalm 27](#); [Psalm 118:26-29](#); [Matthew 23:37-39](#)

Memory Verse: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing” (Mt 23:37).

Prayer: Father, Your light shines on me. You are good and Your love endures forever. I praise and exalt You. Amen



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 JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN’S PASTOR

jennyb@bmc.org.za

Sunday 6th March 2022

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: [Luke 4:1-13](#)

Activity/Family Moment: On Wednesday it was Ash Wednesday, this is a discussion on lent.



THE SEASON OF LENT

Do you know that just as there are 4 seasons in a year – Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring. The Church has seasons that we celebrate at different times of the year.

- Who knows what season the Church is celebrating at the moment? (Lent)
- Who knows what Lent is? (It is the 40 days before Easter, starting with Ash Wednesday.)

Lent is the time to prepare your heart and mind for Easter. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying, bringing Himself closer to God, so Lent is for us a time of fasting and prayer to think about all that Jesus gave up for us on the cross.

People choose to “give up” something that is personally important to them for the period of Lent – they make a personal sacrifice – a reminder again of what Jesus gave for us. Some people give up eating meat, others sweets, or a favourite regular activity such as watching television! Some may take something on such as alms giving –

Whatever we “give up”, the money we save can go to the needy, or perhaps save a portion of your pocket money for the needy. You can also give of your time and goods to those in need. Perhaps you want to take on the commitment of praying and reading the Bible every day, if you don’t do so already.

Encourage the children to “give up” or take something on this Lent. Perhaps even commit to family project e.g., read the **Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer** or perhaps collect money to put towards a group project.

What happens at an Ash Wednesday service?

Ashes are placed on people’s foreheads as a sign of sorrow for sinning against God.

Did you know? Ash Wednesday originated in Old Testament times.

In Bible times, people who repented of their sins sometimes wore sack cloth (rough, scratchy cloth) and dabbed themselves with ashes or sat in ashes (Isaiah 58:5 and Deuteronomy 9:3; Jonah 3:6)