

MARCH 5, 2017
FIRST SUNDAY IN
LENT



The temptation story identifies Jesus as the Son of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation of Jesus
Monday	Deuteronomy 8:1-9	We do not live on bread alone
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 6:10-19	Do not test the Lord
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Warnings about temptation
Thursday	Galatians 6:1-10	Watch yourself!
Friday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Christ was tempted as we are
Saturday	Psalms 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say: 'No one can live only on food. People need every word that God has spoken.'" **Matthew 4:4 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, give us a hunger for your Word, the Bread of Life. Amen. (Matthew 4:4)

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for giving us daily bread. Make us hungry not only for food, but for your Word, the true source of life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus bring you peace when you are afraid; may the Lord your God protect you in time of trouble and give you a song of joy in your heart. (Psalm 32:7)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Jesus, I Have Promised



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you felt tempted in some way.
- Even the devil can quote the Bible (Matthew 4:6). What is the difference between how the devil uses Scripture and how Jesus uses it?
- Jesus' temptation story immediately after his baptism shows what Jesus came to do and who he is by being victorious over the devil and all the powers of evil. How does Jesus' victory help us in our temptations?

DEVOTIONS



Jesus says that our life depends not only on eating food, but on every word that God speaks. This week, connect God's Word at mealtime by beginning each meal with a Bible reading. Use the "Daily Bible Readings" from *Taking Faith Home* or choose a favorite Bible passage (use a storybook Bible if children are present) to read each day. Conclude by saying, "I am a beloved child of God," as a reminder of your identity in Christ.

SERVICE



Just as food feeds the body, so God's Word feeds the soul. An important act of service is to share the word of God with another person. Identify someone—a child, friend, or relative—with whom you can read a Bible passage and discuss its meaning for your lives. Use *Taking Faith Home* as a resource for the time together by including caring conversations, selecting a Bible passage, and ending with prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The season of Lent begins with Jesus in the wilderness and journeys toward the cross and empty tomb. The church has used this time to prepare for baptisms and for the baptized to be renewed in their discipleship. During the 40 days of Lent, commit to use the *Daily Bible Readings* and *Prayer for the Week* from *Taking Faith Home*. Some other options to consider include the following:

- Daily silence to reflect on God's presence in your life.
- Times of fasting by eating simpler meals with water or skipping meals.
- Limit the use of television, computer games, and social media to focus more attention on God's grace in your life.
- End each day by using *A Blessing to Give*.
- Have meals together with others and offer a *Mealtime Prayer*.
- Contribute to the needs of the hungry and homeless.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org