

FEBRUARY 22, 2015  
FIRST SUNDAY  
IN LENT

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

Lent is a time to say no to sin and yes to Jesus.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	The temptation of Jesus
Monday	Matthew 4:1-11	Jesus is tempted by Satan
Tuesday	Luke 22:39-46	Pray that you will not fall
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	God will provide a way out
Thursday	Hebrews 2:10-18	Christ helps those tempted
Friday	James 1:12-18	Do not be deceived
Saturday	Psalms 77:1-15	Prayer for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Christ died for sins once and for all time. The One who did what is right died for those who don't do right. He died to bring you to God.  
1 Peter 3:18 (NIRV)

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, help us when we are tempted today. Make us strong through you and others so that we may do what is right. Amen. (Mark 1:12-13)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

For food in a world where many walk in hunger; for faith in a world where many walk in fear; for friends in a world where many walk alone - we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God help you when you are tempted and lead you along his good path. Amen.

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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is temptation? Share about a time when you felt tempted.
- Jesus spent 40 days in the desert where he was tempted by the devil. What do you think it was like for Jesus to spend that time alone in the desert?
- Why is it important for us that Jesus said no to the devil's temptations?
- How did Jesus overcome the devil's temptations? How does God help us when we are tempted?

## DEVOTIONS

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. The weeks of Lent are a time to refocus our lives on God. One important spiritual practice that Christians emphasize during Lent is prayer. Make this Lent a time of prayer for others. Cut out 36 pieces of paper (one for each of the remaining days of Lent), and on each one write the name of a person your household can pray for during Lent. Place these into a jar and mix them up. Each day of Lent, pull out a slip from the jar and ask God to care for and bless the person named.

## SERVICE

As a Lenten practice, many people choose to give up something they usually enjoy. Decide together to give up a special food item that you would normally buy each week, or to set aside the money you would usually have spent on eating out. At the end of March, use what you have saved to buy food items to donate to a community food shelf or food pantry serving the needy.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Make a "crown of thorns" wreath to serve as a home devotional feature. Make or purchase a grapevine wreath (or equivalent) to use as the base. Insert six purple candles, one for each remaining week of Lent, and a white candle to represent Christ. Light one candle the first week, two candles for the week after, and so on. Begin Holy Week (on Palm Sunday) with all of the six purple candles lit, then extinguish one candle each night thereafter. Light the Christ candle as you celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This week, read 1 Peter 3:18 (*Scripture Verse for the Week*) as you light the first candle. Then say this prayer together:

**Lord Jesus, thank you for dying to free us from sin, once and for all time.  
Thank you for bringing us back to God. Amen.**



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow.



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