



LENT

Faith Conversations

Week of Feb. 18 - Feb. 24

SUNDAY READINGS: *Genesis 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15*

ADULT REFLECTION

In the First Reading this week, we see how God wants to be in relationship with humanity. Rather than a contractual relationship (where goods or services are transacted), he wants something deeper: a covenant relationship, one that transcends mere justice and is rooted in love and generosity. The simple truth is that God loves us. God loves you. The abiding power and depth of God's love is akin to the love parents have for their children, only more perfect. Parents have a taste of God's love placed in their hearts!

In the Gospel passage, we find Jesus responding to the Holy Spirit's call to venture out into the desert. Preparing to take up his divine mission to proclaim this Good News of God's love and mercy, Jesus lives in the desert for 40 days, wrestling with some pretty scary stuff. This retreat is a time of stripping away all but the essentials. There in this seemingly lonely and barren place does he powerfully experience the intimate and transformative love of his Father.

Reflection Questions:

- *In a world where contracts are common, do you have relationships that are deeper than simply transactional? How are you called to live in such relationships?*
- *Are you afraid to quiet your life and look inward, for fear of what might be revealed? Are you willing to let God, whose love is unconditional, be with you in that deserted place?*

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS

Does God love us only when we're good? What about when we're not? What is unconditional love? Where/when have you experienced this kind of love?

This Sunday's Gospel tells us that Jesus went into a desert to be alone with God. How or where do you spend time alone with God? What is it like? Is it easy to be honest with God? Why?

How can we, as a family and as individuals, quiet our lives more this Lent so that we can be more attentive to the whispers of God's love in our hearts?



PRAYER

Be with us, Jesus, as we enter our own 40-day journey this Lent. Help us to know your unconditional love for us so that we may have the courage to love others more like you. Amen.



FASTING

Give up one evening of TV, or whatever your usual entertainment, to spend some quiet time prayerfully creating your family's plan for this Lent.



ALMSGIVING

Jesus went to the desert to prepare for his mission. This week, spend some time considering as a family how God is inviting you to participate in Jesus' mission to the marginalized this Lent.

