



LENT Faith Conversations

Week of March 13-19

Sunday Readings: *Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17– 4:1; Luke 9:28-36*

ADULT REFLECTION

Sunday Readings Summary: Our First Reading at Mass tells of the covenant (agreed upon relationship) God makes with Abram. While in a trance-like state, Abram is promised numerous descendants and land to be their home. It was years before Abram's "barren" wife did have a single son, and the dispersions from and struggles to retain the Holy Land continue to this day.

In the Gospel, in a similarly mysterious encounter, a handful of Jesus' closest friends see his glory. God the Father speaks, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." Jesus then returned to his normal state and soon died an un-glorious death (of course to be followed by his victorious rising from the dead).

It seems God's promises are mysteriously real already *now*, but also *not yet* fully revealed. God reveals himself and his love to us now, we can know him *now*. Yet there is always *more to* experience. We can strive to build the Kingdom of God *now*, yet we pray fervently as Jesus taught us: "Thy Kingdom *Come!*"

For Reflection: Ponder this truth. *In what ways have God's promises of presence, relationship, provision, salvation, glory already been real and fulfilled in your life now? In what ways are they not yet fully fulfilled. . . or not what you expected?*

What is the wisdom and beauty of this "now and not yet" reality in our life with God? What is the challenge? What light does this shed on our observance of Lent? How can listening to Jesus, as the Gospel reminds us, help us in this dynamic unfolding?

FAMILY CONVERSATION & PRAYER STARTERS

In Sunday's First Reading, God makes a promise to Abram (later Abraham.) What does God promise him? How do we share in this promise — what has God promised us? (His presence, his love, he'll take care of us, life in abundance) How have you experienced God keeping these promises to you in recent days/weeks?

Is there a condition for us to receive God's promises? (Yes. . . Faith, openness, being sorry for wrong choices, trying to follow Jesus. And no. . . God will always love us, even when we don't feel it or turn away. We have only to open to him.) How can we turn to God this Lent, and become more open to receiving his promises in our lives?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the good you've promised us and for always keeping your promises. Help us to trust that you will take care of everything in your own good time. Help us to turn to you and listen to your Son, Jesus, this Lent. Amen.

FASTING

Sacrifice your music or your usual podcast one or two days this week so that God can be better heard in the silence.

ALMSGIVING (SHARING WITH THOSE IN NEED)

Talk together about the marginalized people (near or far) you feel called to help this Lent. How might you, as a family, be the means by which God keeps his promises to these people? Do something concrete to help them this week, and pray for them.



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