

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT MARK 1:9-15

Jesus is Baptized, the Spirit descends on him “like a dove,” and he hears the affirmation: “You are my Son, loved, and pleasing to me.” It appears that he is affirmed and ready for ministry. Yet, immediately the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness where he must spend 40 days taming the temptations that come with power. Only then is Jesus equipped to proclaim the good news.

And so we too are invited to notice the temptations that are pulling us off course, diverting our energy, and impeding our ability to proclaim the good news.

TEMPTATION AND PRAYER

The Story

It was time for Jesus to go do the work God wanted him to do. He knew that the first thing he needed to do to get ready for his new work was to go find his cousin, John, and ask him to baptize him. So John and Jesus walked into the river and John baptized Jesus. While they were in the water, they heard these words: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” But Jesus had more work to do. He had to go into the desert to figure out what he was going to do and – more importantly— what he was NOT going to do. While he was there he had to think about a lot of things. When he had figured out what it was that he was supposed to do, he came out of the desert. This is what he said: “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent, and believe in the good news.”

Reflection Questions:

Young Children

Why do think that Jesus had to go to the wilderness to think?

- What types of things do you think Jesus thought about?
- What do you think is the “good news” that Jesus will share?

Older Youth

What does the word “temptation” mean?

- What kind of things might be a temptation to us?

We think he was in the desert for 40 days -- lots of time to struggle with “wants,” but instead, Jesus took this time to get ready for his work. I wonder what we could do with this time to get ready for our work during Lent?

ACTIVITIES

1. Make a Cross from Twigs
2. Listen to the recorded introduction to the book, *Make Room: A Child’s Guide to Lent and Easter*
3. Write in your prayer journal, today, and every day throughout Lent.
Record a favorite prayer.
Locate a new prayer in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and record it in your journal.
Choose a prompt from the attached list of prayer ideas for youth.
4. Create a temptation plate (directions attached)