



Lenten Worship Series: God Meets Us in the Wilderness

April 10, 2011
Jesus in the Wilderness
Matthew 3:16-4:11

Wilderness Guide

Monday

Read Matthew 3:16-4:11

Use the picture above to help you create a mental picture and imagine Jesus experiencing the temptations described in these verses. Imagine the hunger he felt after 40 days with no food. Imagine the loneliness he was experiencing after 40 days of solitude. Imagine him longing for some personal comforts after 40 days in the wilderness. Appreciate how Jesus' experience in the wilderness is helpful to your own journey there.

Go to www.youtube.com to watch a video of Jesus' 40 days in the Wilderness. In the Search Box type: "40—A Video of Jesus in the Wilderness"

Tuesday

Read Matthew 3:16-17

Recall your own baptism. In what ways has your baptism

given you a sense of your identity as a child of God? What other experiences, sacraments, or practices help you know that you are a beloved child of God?

Read and do "Daily Life-giving Water" on the Sermon Notes page.

If you are having trouble believing you are beloved please talk with others about how they have assurance. Plan to pray with the someone on the prayer team after worship on Sunday morning.

If you have not been baptized and would like to explore the meaning of baptism please contact Jeremy Sanderson at 747-1058 x225

Wednesday

Read Matthew 4:1-4. Satan attacks Jesus at a weak point—hunger. How are you feeling weak? In what ways do these feelings of weakness tempt you to doubt God? In what ways are you tempted to give in at your weak points and be self-serving? What scripture can you quote as a tool to fight off these temptations? . . . scriptures that remind you who God is and who you are in relation to God.

Thursday

Read Matthew 4:5-7. Satan attacks Jesus at a strong point—his faith in God's Word. Have you ever been tempted to use scripture to manipulate God? Consider whether you've been tempted to test God by desiring the miraculous. Have you ever been tempted to justify your wrong actions by misuse of scripture? Confess these temptations and seek God's discernment.

Read your notes on the Sermon Notes page and what you wrote in the brown box. Reflect on what God is prompting you to consider more thoroughly.

Friday

Read Matthew 4:8-11. Satan attacks Jesus at his center or vocational point—his love for God's world. Pray about how you are doing in distinguishing your work for God from God himself. What adjustments in attitude or actions do you need to make?

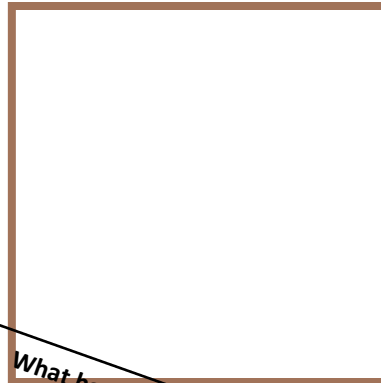
In what ways has your experiences in the wilderness included the elements of risk, fun, and safety similar to the illustration Jeremy gave in the sermon of a dad tossing a baby in the air? Rest this weekend in the safety of God's embrace.



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Sermon Notes



What has God prompted you to think more about today?
Jot notes in this box so you can reflect more on this during the week.



Daily Life-giving Water

Place a bowl of water near the door of your home. When you come and go through this door during the week dip your fingers in the water and remember your baptism.

Remember your identity in Christ.

Repeat this promise from God . . .

“You are my child, whom I love, with you I am well pleased.”

The truth, even though I cannot feel it right now, is that I am the chosen child of God, precious in God's eyes, called the Beloved from all eternity and held safe in an everlasting embrace... We must dare to opt consciously for our closeness and not allow our emotions, feelings, or passions to seduce us into self-rejection.

Henri Nouwen