

FAITH CIRCLES *connect*

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT • YEAR B

GOING DEEPER

SUNDAY GOSPEL

MARK 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

SHARING OUR JOURNEY

In the week before your gathering invite a member of the group to prepare a short, 5-7min, sharing on how this Gospel reading connects with their life and relationship with Jesus. They may like to use the one of the following sharing points:

1. Jesus is driven by God's Spirit into the wilderness, into a place of isolation and aloneness where discovers more about himself and his mission. When have you felt God guiding you to places of deeper understanding and knowledge about yourself and your path in life? Describe the story, what happened, what feelings arose and how you felt God's presence and care.
2. Jesus invites us to 'turn back' to him and the 'good news' of his presence and God's kingdom in the world. Describe some of the ways in which you have 'turned back to God' and realised the 'good news' of his love and presence in your life.

Once the nominated speaker has shared their story, break into smaller sharing groups of 3-5 people. Ask them to reflect upon how this Gospel and sharing has touched their lives.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sing Together

Whilst remaining seated in your smaller groups, play and sing a song of praise and worship as a way of entering into a time of prayer.

Pray for Each Other

Ask about and pray for the needs of group members, inviting the Holy Spirit to be present as you do so. Individuals might like to pray for themselves or ask someone else to pray for them.

Closing Prayer

After people have had time to pray for one another in their smaller groups close the evening with a final prayer in the large group. A suggestion might be:

Loving Father, we thank you for the love and care you have for each of us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may continue to draw strength from you and follow your will in all we do. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen