



Lenten Devotional Guides 2009

On Wednesday, February 25th the Church entered the liturgical season of Lent. This period of prayer, spiritual self-examination and repentance prepares us for the Festival of the Resurrection, Easter. It is a time during which we can ‘Grow as Disciples of Christ who Know Him, Love Him and Serve Him.’ As God’s beloved children and as the congregation of BUMC, let us Journey with Jesus, Being the Church and Living the Kingdom Life.

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS — Mark 1:9-15 — March 1 - 6, 2009

Discipleship is our life-long commitment to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. During Lent you can journey whether you are beginning your walk as a Christian, in the midst of seeking or are a well-worn disciple... to places of acknowledgement, identity, fresh conversion, relationship, and faith. As you read Scripture, spend some time in silence asking for a receptive, teachable heart.

SUNDAY	<p>March 1 Read Mark 1:9-11</p> <p>Baptism is an act of submission and cleansing in which we bow to God’s authority and claim our identity. At his baptism Jesus’ identity was made evident. He knew himself to be ‘a child of God’, God’s son. Remembering your baptism and claiming your identity before God undergirds your daily walk as a disciple. Today consider your identity as a child of God. How might it be helpful to begin and end each day with this remembrance?</p>
MONDAY	<p>March 2 Read Mark 1:12-13</p> <p>You may want to read other accounts of the temptation found in Matt. 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. The story of Jesus’ temptation in the desert immediately follows his baptism. In austere circumstances Jesus acknowledges and submits to God’s authority. Jesus affirms his call to be the suffering servant and denies any other call. At our baptism a choice was made. We must continue to make that choice very day. What is the role of submission in your daily walk?</p>
TUESDAY	<p>March 3 Read Mark 1:14-15</p> <p>Jesus proclaims the good news of God. “The time has come...The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” To repent is to turn around... to take another direction...to ‘turn your eyes upon Jesus’ [Hymn # 349]. In prayer and submission, ask God to show you areas in your life that need ‘turning’. How is God asking that turning to occur?</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>March 4</p> <p>‘Being saved’ must be accompanied by living out of the will of God. Our commitment must conform to our confession...there must be evidence of a changed life. We are asked to go beyond ‘fulfilling obligations’ to a greater obedience...living a Kingdom life. If we watch how a person lives, we will see the authority to which he or she submits. Where do you spend your time, your money? Your response answers the question “which kingdom is mine?”</p>
THURSDAY	<p>March 5</p> <p>Place yourself under the authority of God, asking to be shown where you have ‘missed the mark’; seeking forgiveness and cleansing; and accepting your identity as a child of God. In thinking about the themes of submission and repentance this week, where have you heard God’s call to grow as a disciple? How will you answer?</p>
FRIDAY	<p>March 6 Pray or Sing ‘Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior’, Hymn # 351</p> <p>Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry; while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by. Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief, Kneeling there in deep contrition; help my unbelief. Trusting only in thy merit, would I seek thy face; Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace. Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry; While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.</p>