



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: The Gospel According to Peter  
Text for the Week: Mark 1:1-13  
Message for the Week: Pushed Into the Wild  
Theme for the Week: Wilderness

### Week 2

#### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Where do you go to find God?

#### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

#### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Mark 1:1-13](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

Which is more important, the path we walk on or the way we walk on the path? Why?

Why was Jesus' baptism significant? Why is our baptism significant?

How are testing and trial a positive thing?

What wilderness experiences have you had in your life? How has God bended, shaped, and molded you in the wildernesses of your life?

As a follower of Jesus, how are you stepping out into the wild and living a life of discomfort and uncertainty?

Have you ever been in a physical wilderness? Share your experience. Have you ever been in a spiritual wilderness? Share your experience.

## "Try It!"

During this season of Lent, we give up things to deepen our relationship with God and each other. This week you are encouraged to give up using your phone/media/TV/computer/game counsels/Netflix for a 40 consecutive hour period (example Friday Noon to Sunday Noon). When you feel to urge to pick up, watch, play, etc., pay attention to the Holy Spirit's prompting about what you could/should do instead and then do it.

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Pray this prayer together:

*Father, thank you that we belong to you, that you love us unconditionally, that your Spirit resides in us, and that we have the privilege to "wear" your name. Thank you for your presence, strength and grace as we walk through the wildernesses of our lives. May our time in the wilderness be an opportunity for us to deepen our faith, grow in Christ, and prepare for the ministry you are calling us to engage. Give us the courage to reflect you, our Father, in all that we do. In Jesus name, Amen.*

## Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Praying for Neighbors

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to give something up to deepen our relationship with God and each other. Each day during the month of March, take time during your day from doing something else to pray for one of your neighbors. You could pray for a different neighbor each day of the week or for the same neighbor every day.

## Mark 1:1-13 New International Version

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"<sup>[c]</sup>—

<sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with<sup>[e]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with<sup>[f]</sup> the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted<sup>[g]</sup> by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

## Mark 1:1-13 New Living Translation

1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.<sup>[a]</sup> It began <sup>2</sup> just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

"Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
and he will prepare your way.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming!  
Clear the road for him!'<sup>[c]</sup>"

<sup>4</sup> This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. <sup>5</sup> All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with<sup>[d]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him<sup>[e]</sup> like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

<sup>12</sup> The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.