

MARCH 15, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT



Evangelism is relational.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Exodus 17:1-7	The Lord gives water from a rock
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Right with God
Wednesday	John 1:35-42	Come and see Jesus
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 2:5-12	Paul's relational ministry
Friday	Romans 12:9-21	Caring relationships
Saturday	Psalms 95	Call to worship
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” **John 4:29 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, thank you for reaching out to me and to all your people with steadfast love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you fed the people in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today. In the name of Jesus our Savior, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
*The Spirit Sends Us
Forth to Serve*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you introduce yourself to a stranger?
- Who has introduced you to (or taught you about) Jesus? How did this happen?
- The woman at the well introduced Jesus to her townspeople. Who can you introduce to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 4:5-42.

Jesus meets with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. It's the place where Jacob met Rachel more than a millennium before. It is now the place where Jesus shows what it means that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16) by caring for a non-Jewish woman, someone who was alone and likely abandoned by her own people. The woman is so impressed by Jesus and their conversation that she goes to her townspeople and says, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" (v. 29) The Samaritan woman does three things that are essential traits of evangelism: 1) she invites ("Come and see"); 2) she tells her own story of her encounter with Jesus ("I just met a man who . . ."); and 3) she wonders if this is the awaited Messiah (Her question in the original Greek suggests she really doesn't think so.). Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. How do you have conversations with others about Jesus?

Pray: Merciful God, just as Jesus stopped to talk to the woman at the well, help me to stop, listen, and talk to others and be an example of your love for them. Amen.

SERVICE

The Daily Bible Reading for Friday this week is about caring relationships. "Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers" (Romans 12:13). Think about what it feels like to be the new person on the block. Make a list of things you can do to extend a welcome to someone who is new in your community. Making a meal, giving rides, and introducing them to neighbors are a few ideas. What will you do to extend hospitality to a stranger this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the third week in Lent, light three of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents "T", for Thanksgiving, meaning to express thanks and gratitude to God.

Pray: Dear God, I am thankful for all that you have given me. I thank you for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org