



An Invitation to Listen to God

“Driven”



To prepare for the next Small Group meeting you are invited to engage in the following process before you meet each week:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear God’s Word.
- Choose a scripture passage, read it and sit quietly with the Word.
- What moves you or attracts you in this reading?
- Does anything cause resistance in you? Do you know why?
- Take a few minutes to respond in writing to the readings.

Readings for the 1st Sunday of Lent February 18, 2024

Reading 1: Genesis 9: 8-15

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25: 4-9

Reading 2: 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

Questions

► *For group discussion:*

1. Why are covenants so important to God, and to us? What does God’s covenant with His people mean to you and your life of faith today?
2. How do you understand the flood: as destructive or saving? How is it a prefiguring of Baptism? What does the flood symbolize?
3. In the past, how was your “spirit” in prison? Might it still be? How were you, or are you still, disobedient?
4. What are some of the temptations that may have confronted Jesus? After all, He was in the desert where there was not much opportunity to act on these temptations, was there? What are your temptations? Which are “behavioral” (what you do or can do when opportunities confront you), and which are “mental” (your attitudes, thoughts, even when no opportunities exist right now)?
5. Is there a need for you to continually repent? Why? What good does it do? Where is the “desert” which might reveal what you fear the most?

Gospel [MK 1:12-15](#)

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days,
tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
"This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."