

Prayer Guide – Week 1

A Table in the Wilderness for Jesus

Opening Prayer

O Lord, can you really spread a table in the wilderness of life? Walk with me as I walk this path of the cross with honest questions of life in my heart and my face turned to find the table you have spread in the wilderness for so many before me, and now also for me. Amen.

Reading

At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him (Mark 1:9–13).

Reflect

- Jesus' baptism must have been a spiritual highlight for him. Why did the Spirit then immediately send him into the wilderness?
- What do I notice and feel as I look at this picture?
- How lonely and tempted am I?
- Can God really provide a table in the wilderness of loneliness and temptation?

Christ Speaks: Words of Encouragement

Take heart, my child. Cast your burdens on to me, I will carry your cross for you. My Father attends you. He is your Father, too. All that is needed God's hands will provide.

Closing Prayer

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your life, your death, and your resurrection you have shown us how God always spreads a table in the wilderness in the face of all our fears. Amen.