

# Week 2

*February 23-28*

MONDAY, February 23

*Daily Reading: Psalm 44 | Genesis 37:1-11 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-19 | Mark 1:1-13*

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. — Mark 1:12-13

*Reflect: What are the things that distract you from God? What spiritual practices and holy habits bring you closer?*

## Going Deeper

- When you think about Jesus being driven into the wilderness, what parallels do you see with your own experiences of hardship or testing?
- Joseph's dreams in Genesis reveal God's plan, but they also stir jealousy and division. How do you discern whether the desires and visions stirring in you are from God? How do you handle others' reactions to them?
- The psalmist cries out in confusion, feeling abandoned in the face of suffering. How do you respond when you feel as though God is silent? What helps you to remain steadfast in faith?
- What holy habits might help you clear away distractions so that you can encounter God more fully in this season?



TUESDAY, February 24

*Daily Readings: Psalm 47, 48 | Genesis 37:12-24 | 1 Corinthians 1:20-31 | Mark 1:14-28*

Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. — Mark 1:25-28

*Reflect: What was it that made you realize Jesus is the Holy One of God? Was it something you were taught, or was it an experience?*

#### Going Deeper

- When you hear how Simon, Andrew, James and John leave everything to follow Jesus, what comes to mind about what you have been asked to leave behind? What are you still holding onto that is keeping you from fully following Jesus?
- Joseph’s brothers reject him out of jealousy and fear. How do you respond when someone’s life stirs discomfort or envy in you?
- Imagine being in the synagogue, hearing the unclean spirit cry, “I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” How would you have responded?



WEDNESDAY, February 25

*Daily Readings: Psalm 49, [53] | Genesis 37:25-36 | 1 Corinthians 2:1-13 | Mark 1:29-45*

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.  
— Mark 1:32-34

*Reflect: Do you pause for prayer during your workday? How can you create a holy habit of “touching base” with God on a daily basis?*

### Going Deeper

- Paul speaks of relying not on human wisdom but on the Spirit’s power. In what areas of your life do you need to rely less on your own strength and more on God’s Spirit to guide you?
- Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, yet God used that painful betrayal for good. How do you see God working even in the places of disappointment or betrayal in your own life?
- The psalmist reminds us that wealth and human power cannot save us. Where are you tempted to put your trust in things that do not last?



THURSDAY, February 26

*Daily Readings: Psalm [59, 60] or 19, 46 | Genesis 39:1-23 | 1 Corinthians 2:14–3:15  
Mark 2:1-12*

At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — he said to the paralytic — “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” — Mark 2:8-11

*Reflect: A question to ask God in your prayer life: Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins in addition to healing him?*

#### Going Deeper

- The paralyzed man's friends overcome every obstacle to bring him to Jesus. Who has carried you closer to Christ in times of weakness? Are you being called to help someone come closer to Christ?
- Even in the face of betrayal and slavery, Joseph remains faithful. How do you remain grounded in God's presence when you experience injustice or suffering?
- Paul reminds us that the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. How open are you to letting the Spirit reveal new and perhaps unexpected truths to you?



FRIDAY, February 27

*Daily Readings: Psalm 51 | Genesis 40:1-23 | 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 | Mark 2:13-22*

When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” – Mark 2:17

*Reflect: Can you imagine God loving someone whom you consider to be evil or unredeemable? Can you imagine that God loves you and that person equally?*

### Going Deeper

- Jesus tells the Pharisees that he came not for the righteous but for sinners. Do you consider yourself as someone in need of healing or someone who has already “arrived”?
- The psalmist prays for a clean heart and a renewed spirit. What holy habits help you open yourself to God’s transforming mercy in your own life?
- Jesus shares meals with tax collectors and sinners. How can you imitate his radical hospitality in your own community, drawing in those who might feel far from God’s love?



## SATURDAY, February 28

*Daily Readings: Psalm 138, 139:1-17(18-23) | Genesis 41:1-13 | 1 Corinthians 4:1-7 | Mark 2:23–3:6*

Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”  
– Mark 2:27

*Reflect: What type of things get in the way of truly loving your neighbor?*

### Going Deeper

- Jesus reminds us that the sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the sabbath. How do you balance the importance of spiritual practices with the call to show mercy and love?
- Paul writes that everything we have is a gift from God, not something we have earned or acquired on our own. How does this truth reshape your sense of pride, gratitude or humility?
- The psalmist marvels that God knows every thought, word and action before it comes to be. How does it comfort you—or challenge you—to realize that God sees and knows you so completely?

