

WHAT'S GOING ON?

+ Don't forget to pass out your Easter invite cards! If you weren't there Sunday, we will have them again this upcoming Sunday.

+ We will be having three gatherings for Easter: 7:00, 9:00, & 10:45. If possible, please try and come to the 7:00 service to make room for our guests at our regular service times.

+ Good Friday gathering will be April 19 at 7:00pm. Childcare offered for preschool and under. We are looking for on-stage readers during the service. If you're interested in participating in this contact Jay (jbennett@lifepoint.org).

+ GO Trip sign ups are coming to a close. Sign up on our website or contact Chris (cwoodard@lifepointqcy.org) for information about our 2019 trips (Guatemala & Greece)

+ We will be having a baptism Sunday on April 28th. Contact Chris (cwoodard@lifepointqcy.org) if you have any questions about baptism!

MATTHEW 4:1 - 2

ICE BREAKER

Question: Where is your least favorite vacation destination you went as a child?

Question: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

CENTERING FOCUS

Psalm 63 is a prayer from King David when he was in the wilderness. He was downcast, lonely, and desperate for intimacy with the LORD.

Have someone in the group read *Psalm 63:1-8* aloud, slowly. Allow for a few moments of silence after reading, and close this time in a focused prayer.

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Last week we were challenged to start the first few minutes of our morning spending intentional time with God in prayer.

Question: How did it go? Was this difficult? If so, what got in the way? Was this helpful? What did you learn? How did you grow?

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION

Question: What is a non-necessity that would be VERY hard to give up for lent? (Example: soda, coffee, TV, phone/social media, book, etc.)

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:1-2 (ESV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Question: What spiritual discipline(s) does the passage tell us Jesus practiced while in the desert for forty days? What other spiritual disciplines might Jesus have just practiced during those forty days?

Question: After fasting for forty days and nights, how do think Jesus was feeling? Do you think Jesus was encouraged or discouraged after those forty days? Why?

Question: What are the purposes of spiritual disciplines?

Question: Why do you think God called Jesus into an extended time of spiritual disciplines before he was tempted by satan or called into ministry?

*The word *wilderness* can also be translated desert, alone/solitude, and uninhabited. We see throughout scripture that God sends people into the wilderness (Moses in Exodus 2:15, Israelites in Numbers 13, David in 1 Samuel 23 & Elijah in 1 Kings 17)

Question: If God is good and loving, why would he send people into the wilderness? Why would he send Jesus into the wilderness?

*The wilderness as a place of spiritual discipline is a good place that God uses to draw us into deeper intimacy with him. He teaches us dependence on him and prepares us to say no to temptation and sin and say yes to him.

Question: What type of wilderness is God calling you into right now? In what ways do you believe God is growing you in intimacy with him?

NEW CHALLENGE

This week your challenge is to practice praying out loud, by yourself. Praying out loud can be really intimidating, but the more we practice the more comfortable we will be in communing with God, our Father.

Here are some example places to try:

- On your morning drive to work
- In the school pickup line
- In the shower
- While you are mowing the grass