

For God So **LOVED**

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT **MARCH 10–MARCH 16, 2019**

Discussion Questions

1. The words “refuge,” “calling,” “temptation,” and “provision” were used to describe the wilderness. Are there other words you would use to describe times of wilderness in your life? What are they? Why did you choose those words?
2. There are many parallels between Jesus’s time in the wilderness and the Israelites’ time in the wilderness in Exodus. What are some other parallels you may have noticed? How do you think these parallels help us learn more about God?
3. Jews viewed fasting as a way to prepare for divine revelation. Have you ever experienced a revelation from God through fasting? If so, what was it? Would you consider fasting to prepare for a time of listening to God?
4. The children of Israel were provided for in the midst of the wilderness through quail, manna, and water. Jesus was provided for in the midst of the wilderness as well, through the words of Scripture and the presence of the Holy Spirit. In what ways have you seen God provide for you in the midst of wilderness in your life? Is it difficult to see God’s provision when you are in the middle of wilderness?
5. Temptation might be the most obvious word to describe time in the wilderness. What are some of the things that tempt you the most in the midst of your own wildernesses? What are some of the things that tempt you most during times of fasting?

6. What are some ways you can set aside the season of Lent to be a time of refuge, calling, and provision for you? What are some ways you can prepare your heart to stand against temptation during this season?

7. How can your community of faith help you during seasons of wilderness in your life?