



Discussion Guide for “Into the Wilderness” *The Devil in the Details Week 1*

How often in our preparations for Christmas do we forget to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ? While the prophet Isaiah prays that God will tear open the heavens and come to us, Jesus instead comes humbly, in ways we least expect. How can we be alert and attentive this Advent season so we don't miss when Jesus comes among us?

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Mark 1:9-15](#)

[Genesis 9:8-17](#)

[Psalm 25:1-10](#)

[1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

Lenten Fast:

Many Christians observe Lent by choosing something to give up for 40 days, symbolically joining Jesus in the wilderness. Some choose meat, others social media, others caffeine. What can you choose to fast from for the next 40 days? How can this be an act of preparation for your journey with God?

Questions for Discussion

1. Are you a camping person? What kind of preparations do you make for a camping trip? (If you're not a camper, what kind of preparations do you imagine you'd have to make?) WHY is preparation such an important part of camping?
2. What's good about being in the wilderness? Why do people choose to leave civilization to spend time in the wilderness?
3. Reread Mark 1:9-15. Why does Jesus go to the wilderness between his calling (at baptism) and the beginning of his ministry?
4. What did God say to you during the season of Epiphany? How might these next six weeks serve as a season of preparation for you to respond to what God said to you?
5. How are you going to be intentional to prepare during this season of Lent? Will you do a Lenten fast? Something else?