



LENT

Faith Conversations

Week of March 16-22

SUNDAY READINGS: *Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17- 4:1; Luke 9:28-36*

ADULT REFLECTION

Our First Reading at Mass tells of the covenant (agreed upon relationship) God makes with Abram. While in a trance-like state, Abram is promised numerous descendants and land to be their home. It was years before Abram's "barren" wife did have a single son, and the dispersions from and struggles to retain the Holy Land continue to this day.

In the Gospel, in a similarly mysterious encounter, a handful of Jesus' closest friends see his glory. God the Father speaks, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." Jesus then returned to his normal state and soon died an un-glorious death (of course to be followed by his victorious rising from the dead).

It seems God's promises are mysteriously real already now, but also not yet fully revealed. God reveals himself and his love to us now, we can know him now. Yet there is always more to experience. We can strive to build the Kingdom of God now, yet we pray fervently as Jesus taught us: "Thy Kingdom Come!"

Reflection Questions:

- Ponder this truth. In what ways have God's promises of presence, relationship, provision, salvation, glory already been real and fulfilled in your life now? In what ways are they not yet fully fulfilled or not what you expected?
- What is the wisdom and beauty of this "now and not yet" reality in our life with God? What is the challenge? What light does this shed on our observance of Lent? How can listening to Jesus, as the Gospel reminds us, help us in this dynamic unfolding?

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS

In Sunday's First Reading, God makes a promise to Abram (later Abraham.) What does God promise him? What has God promised us? How have you experienced God keeping these promises to you in the past?

Is there a condition for us to receive God's promises? How can we turn to God this Lent, and become more open to receiving his promises in our lives?



PRAYER

Be with us, Jesus, as we try to listen to you and trust completely in your plan for our lives. Open the "ears" of our hearts. Strengthen us to pour ourselves out in love, for we believe that you, yourself, will fill us. Amen.



FASTING

Give up listening to music or your usual podcast one or two days this week so as to better listen to Jesus, and one another.



ALMSGIVING

Practice *seeing* the difficulties and needs of others this week. Talk together about this exercise of empathy and choose one situation where you can actively ease the hardships of another.

