

Day One: Mark 1:9-13

- Set the scene of this text (9). Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized? And why did it happen in the same river the ancient Israelites crossed to escape slavery? What does this tell us about Jesus' mission? And how can we partner with him to extend it?
- Describe what happened as Jesus came out of the water (10-11). In your mind's eye, picture heaven torn open. Why did the Holy Spirit appear as a dove? Reflect on the words God spoke to Jesus. Why did he express love and pleasure? What do you think it would be like to see, feel and hear the Holy Spirit in this way?
- What happened next (12)? Describe Jesus' time in the wilderness (13). The Holy Spirit led Jesus to a place where he was ultimately tempted to sin. What sense do you make of this? Pray for awareness of the Spirit's presence and purpose in all situations, especially those where temptation and trouble abound.

Day Two: Luke 1:39-45

- Right after receiving incredible news, what did Mary do (39-40)? What happened when she greeted Elizabeth (41)? Even while Jesus was still in his mother's womb, the Holy Spirit was part of the story, miraculously ministering both to Elizabeth and her unborn child, John. The story of Jesus and the story of the Holy Spirit cannot be separated. Respond to the Lord.
- In response to being filled with the Holy Spirit, what did Elizabeth say, and how did she say it (42-45)? Which of her proclamations most excite you? Why? Consider her words in verse 44. As soon as you sense the Holy Spirit, may you also be filled with joy. What do you want this joy to cultivate in you and through you?
- In fiercely patriarchal first century Palestine, this gospel vignette surprisingly features only women, and they are held up as models for experiencing the Holy Spirit! Today, how do Mary and Elizabeth inspire and challenge you? Thank God for their legacy.

Day Three: Luke 1:67-80

- Following the birth of his long-awaited son, John the Baptist, what happened to Zechariah (67)? Summarize his prophecy about the Messiah (68-75). Which parts most grab your attention? Why? What similarities and differences do you notice between this prophecy and the Isaiah text Jesus quoted in Luke 4:18-19?
- Summarize Zechariah's prophecy about his own son (76-79). In what ways does it echo Luke 4:18-19? Again, which parts most grab your attention? Why? How do you think it felt for the Holy Spirit to reveal truths about both Jesus and John to Zechariah? Like for Mary and Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit was at work in Zechariah before Jesus was even born. Respond to the Lord.
- How did John's life unfold (80)? Some translations say *the* Spirit. Consider throughout the gospels all that the Holy Spirit empowered John to do. What does he empower *you* to do?

Day Four: Luke 2:22-40

- Describe the setting and occasion (22-24). What rites and rituals, if any, do you associate with the Holy Spirit? Why? Describe Simeon (25). What did the Spirit reveal to him, and how did the Spirit move him (26-27)? What did Simeon say and do when he saw Jesus (28-32)? Again, the Holy Spirit was at work long before Jesus' ministry kicked

off. What is unique about this instance? What connections do Simeon's words share with Luke 4:18-19?

- How did Jesus' parents respond to Simeon (33)? And then what did Simeon say to Mary (34-35)? How do these words relate to what Jesus said in Luke 4:24-27? How do you think the Holy Spirit wants us to respond when he reveals something bad or scary?
- Describe Anna (36-37). As Simeon interacted with Jesus, what did she do (38)? Was Anna filled with the Holy Spirit, just as Simeon was? Why or why not? How does this story conclude (39-40)? What role do you think the Spirit played during those years?

Day Five: Luke 4:1-13

- While Mark 1:12-13 gives the CliffsNotes version of Jesus' time in the wilderness, Luke provides a more detailed account. Set the scene (1-2). Note that Jesus was both full of the Holy Spirit *and* led by the Spirit into a trial. What do you make of this?
- Summarize the three ways the devil tried to tempt Jesus (3-12). How did their time in the desert conclude (13)? Jesus, diminished by fasting, successfully resisted Satan. Notice the pattern in his responses to the devil: all quotations came from Deuteronomy – a book full of commands repeatedly violated by God's people. What does it say about Jesus that he was able to perfectly obey them?
- Focusing on the Holy Spirit's role in the story, re-read the passage. Without the Holy Spirit, could Jesus – being both fully man and fully God – have successfully resisted the devil's temptations? Why or why not? How does the Holy Spirit help *you* stay faithful to God during times of trial? Give thanks to the Lord.