

# The Question of the Week

## Breaking Open the Word

Week of March 1, 2009

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

### 1. The Call to Prayer

**Leader:** My friends, let's pause to spend a few moments in prayer and conversation with each other. [Lead all in the Sign of the Cross] + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 2. The Word of God

**Leader:** May the Lord be in our hearts as we recall and re-listen to a reading from last Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

[Re-read all or part of the suggested reading.]

Readings from last Sunday are:

First reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Second reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel reading: Mark 1:12-15

Reading suggested for this Week's sharing: **Today's Gospel**

### 3. The Two Faith Sharing Questions

**Leader:** As we consider this Sacred Scripture, I invite you to think about it in two dimensions. [You may wish to work in small groups if your number is large.]

- First, ask about the text itself, to draw attention to the Scripture.
  - What word or phrase in this text caught your ear?
  - What story did you hear, or image did you get?
  - What touched you as you heard this reading?
- Second, when the first sharing is complete, ask about the people's lives.
  - Use this "Question of the Week" to help people get started sharing faith:
  - **What is the one area of your life which you most want to reform?**
  - **What are your plans for Lent this year?**

**4. The Prayer.** At the end of the sharing period, invite folks to pray in one of the following ways:

- The Lord's Prayer out loud together
- Spontaneous prayers
- A moment of silent prayer
- Listen to a recorded hymn

# The Question of the Week

## Breaking Open the Word

Week of March 8, 2009

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### 1. The Call to Prayer

**Leader:** My friends, let's pause to spend a few moments in prayer and conversation with each other. [Lead all in the Sign of the Cross] + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 2. The Word of God

**Leader:** May the Lord be in our hearts as we recall and re-listen to a reading from last Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

[Re-read all or part of the suggested reading.]

Readings from last Sunday are:

First reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18

Second reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel reading: Mark 9:2-10

Reading suggested for this Week's sharing: **Today's Gospel**

### 3. The Two Faith Sharing Questions

**Leader:** As we consider this Sacred Scripture, I invite you to think about it in two dimensions. [You may wish to work in small groups if your number is large.]

- First, ask about the text itself, to draw attention to the Scripture.
  - What word or phrase in this text caught your ear?
  - What story did you hear, or image did you get?
  - What touched you as you heard this reading?
- Second, when the first sharing is complete, ask about the people's lives.
  - Use this "Question of the Week" to help people get started sharing faith:
  - **In what ways does Jesus speak today, ways in which you can truly "listen to him?" Through whom or what do you hear the voice of God in your life?**

**4. The Prayer.** At the end of the sharing period, invite folks to pray in one of the following ways:

- The Lord's Prayer out loud together
- Spontaneous prayers
- A moment of silent prayer
- Listen to a recorded hymn

# The Question of the Week

## Breaking Open the Word

Week of March 15, 2009

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### 1. The Call to Prayer

**Leader:** My friends, let's pause to spend a few moments in prayer and conversation with each other. [Lead all in the Sign of the Cross] + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 2. The Word of God

**Leader:** May the Lord be in our hearts as we recall and re-listen to a reading from last Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

[Re-read all or part of the suggested reading.]

Readings from last Sunday are:

First reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel reading: John 2:13-25

Reading suggested for this Week's sharing: **Today's first reading, the short version**

### 3. The Two Faith Sharing Questions

**Leader:** As we consider this Sacred Scripture, I invite you to think about it in two dimensions. [You may wish to work in small groups if your number is large.]

- First, ask about the text itself, to draw attention to the Scripture.
  - What word or phrase in this text caught your ear?
  - What story did you hear, or image did you get?
  - What touched you as you heard this reading?
- Second, when the first sharing is complete, ask about the people's lives.
  - Use this "Question of the Week" to help people get started sharing faith:
  - **As you hear the Commandments proclaimed today, which one of them really strikes you? Which one catches your ear most?**

**4. The Prayer.** At the end of the sharing period, invite folks to pray in one of the following ways:

- The Lord's Prayer out loud together
- Spontaneous prayers
- A moment of silent prayer
- Listen to a recorded hymn

# The Question of the Week

## Breaking Open the Word

Week of March 22, 2009

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

### 1. The Call to Prayer

**Leader:** My friends, let's pause to spend a few moments in prayer and conversation with each other. [Lead all in the Sign of the Cross] + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 2. The Word of God

**Leader:** May the Lord be in our hearts as we recall and re-listen to a reading from last Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

[Re-read all or part of the suggested reading.]

Readings from last Sunday are:

First reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-17, 19-29

Second reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel reading: John 3:14-21

Reading suggested for this Week's sharing: **Today's Gospel**

### 3. The Two Faith Sharing Questions

**Leader:** As we consider this Sacred Scripture, I invite you to think about it in two dimensions. [You may wish to work in small groups if your number is large.]

- First, ask about the text itself, to draw attention to the Scripture.
  - What word or phrase in this text caught your ear?
  - What story did you hear, or image did you get?
  - What touched you as you heard this reading?
- Second, when the first sharing is complete, ask about the people's lives.
  - Use this "Question of the Week" to help people get started sharing faith:
  - **When is it difficult for you to believe? What particular line in this reading helps your faith?**

**4. The Prayer.** At the end of the sharing period, invite folks to pray in one of the following ways:

- The Lord's Prayer out loud together
- Spontaneous prayers
- A moment of silent prayer
- Listen to a recorded hymn

# The Question of the Week

## Breaking Open the Word

Week of March 29, 2009

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

### 1. The Call to Prayer

**Leader:** My friends, let's pause to spend a few moments in prayer and conversation with each other. [Lead all in the Sign of the Cross] + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### 2. The Word of God

**Leader:** May the Lord be in our hearts as we recall and re-listen to a reading from last Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

[Re-read all or part of the suggested reading.]

Readings from last Sunday are:

First reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Second reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel reading: John 22:20-33

Reading suggested for this Week's sharing: **Today's Gospel**

### 3. The Two Faith Sharing Questions

**Leader:** As we consider this Sacred Scripture, I invite you to think about it in two dimensions. [You may wish to work in small groups if your number is large.]

- First, ask about the text itself, to draw attention to the Scripture.
  - What word or phrase in this text caught your ear?
  - What story did you hear, or image did you get?
  - What touched you as you heard this reading?
- Second, when the first sharing is complete, ask about the people's lives.
  - Use this "Question of the Week" to help people get started sharing faith:
  - **Name one area in your life that you need to let go of, to die to, in order to rise with new life.**
  - **Take a few moments today together to evaluate how Lent has gone for you thus far this year. Share that with each other.**

**4. The Prayer.** At the end of the sharing period, invite folks to pray in one of the following ways:

- The Lord's Prayer out loud together
- Spontaneous prayers
- A moment of silent prayer
- Listen to a recorded hymn