



A Graphic Novel Lenten Devotional



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Table of Contents

WEEK 1

Jesus's Baptism

WEEK 2

Take Up Your Cross

WEEK 3

Psalm 19

WEEK 4

Being in the Wilderness (Numbers)

WEEK 5

Psalm 51

WEEK 6

Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem

Jesus' Baptism

Mark 1:9-15



Steve Thomason, © 2020

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!”

– Mark 1:9-15, *Common English Bible*

Questions for Reflection

1. Growing up is hard! Reflect on a time your parents lovingly encouraged you to do something on your own. Do you remember the first time they did not offer their help? How did you feel? How did you know that they still loved you?

2. Write down three words that help you remember God's love for you and then pick one of the words to draw a picture.

Take Up Your Cross

Mark 8:31-38



Steve Thomason, ©2020

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

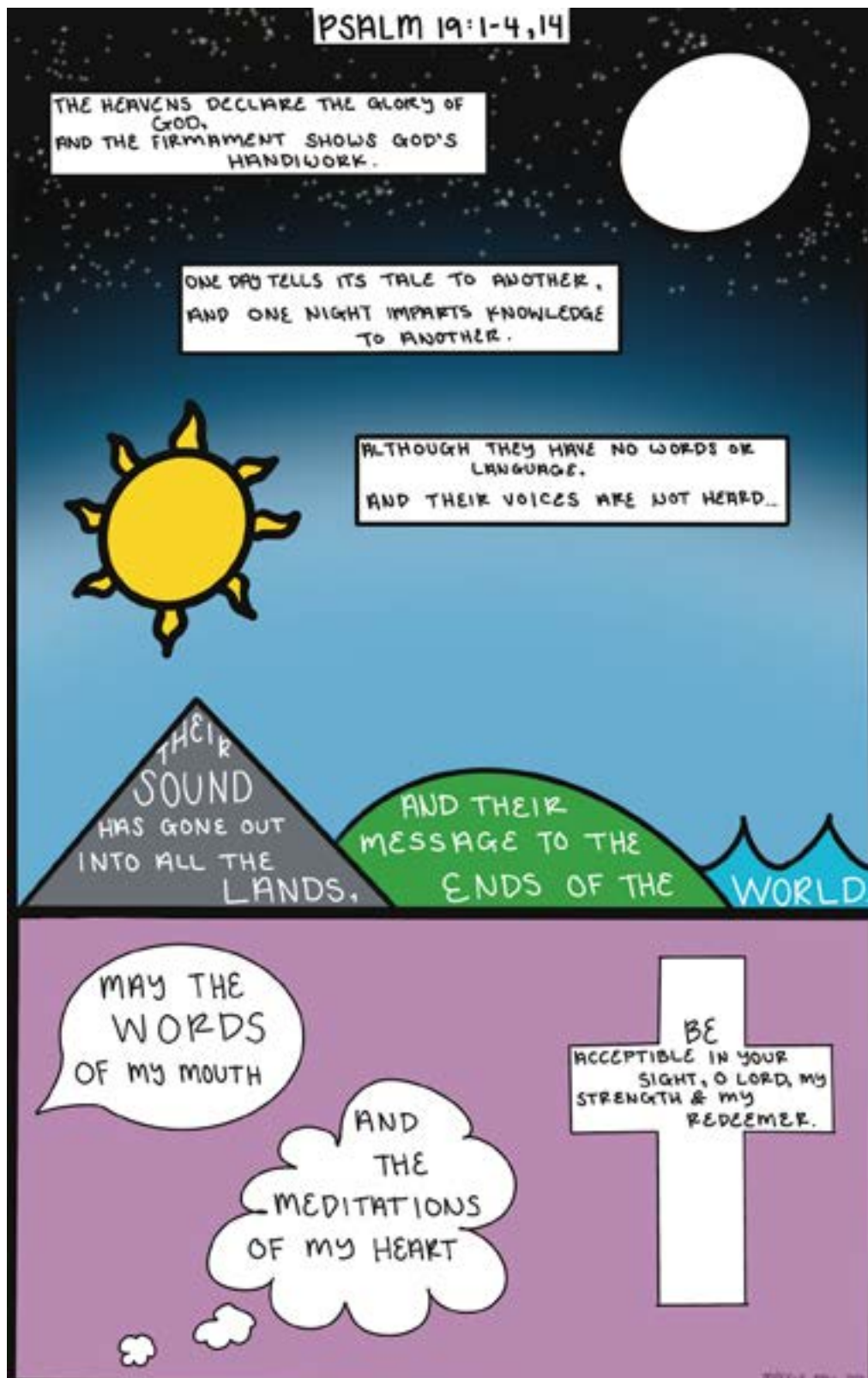
– Mark 8:31-38, CEB

Questions for Reflection

WAIT. WHAT?! Did I hear that correctly? Sometimes life can be confusing. We think we understand something, then all of the sudden our perspective changes because we have learned something new. Think of a time when your perspective changed on a subject. What did it feel like?

Write about a time when you thought something bad happened to you, then it turned out to be a good experience.

Psalm 19:1-4, 14



Psalm 19 (Book of Common Prayer)

1 The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the
world.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be acceptable in
your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Questions for Reflection

God created the universe and all that is in it - from the stars in the sky to the stardust that makes up our very bones. Where do you see the presence of God? Outside of church, where do you feel closest to God? In what areas of your life is it easier to feel God's presence?

If the heavens declare the glory and love of God, how can our words and thoughts do the same? What does it mean to have words and meditations (thoughts) that are "acceptable" to God? Draw a doodle of yourself (stick figures are fine!) surrounded by these loving words and thoughts.

THEY MARCHED FROM MOUNT HOR ON THE REED SEA ROAD AROUND THE LAND OF EDOM.



THE PEOPLE BECAME IMPATIENT

WHY DID YOU BRING US OUT OF EGYPT TO KILL US IN THE DESERT, WHERE THERE IS NO FOOD OR WATER? AND WE HATE THIS BREAD!



SO GOD SENT VENOMOUS SNAKES AMONG THEM...



AND THEY BIT THE PEOPLE.

MANY ISRAELITES DIED.



WE'VE SINNED, FOR WE SPOKE AGAINST GOD AND YOU.

PRAY TO GOD SO THAT GOD WILL SEND THE SNAKES AWAY!



SO MOSES PRAYED FOR THEM...

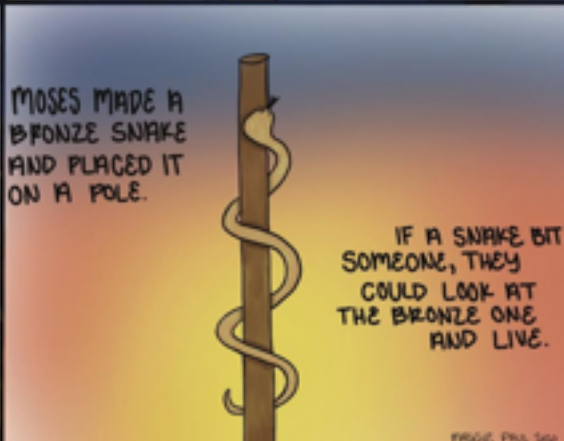


MAKE A VENOMOUS SNAKE AND PLACE IT ON A POLE. WHOEVER IS BITTEN CAN LOOK AT IT AND LIVE.



MOSES MADE A BRONZE SNAKE AND PLACED IT ON A POLE.

IF A SNAKE BIT SOMEONE, THEY COULD LOOK AT THE BRONZE ONE AND LIVE.



Numbers 21:4-9

(Common English Bible)

They marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. The people spoke against God and Moses: “Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!” So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

The people went to Moses and said, “We’ve sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and you. Pray to the Lord so that he will send the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live.” Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

Questions for Reflection

This passage talks a lot about doing something wrong. But, God wants us to remember that God loves us no matter what. Reflect on a time that you had to apologize to someone and ask for forgiveness. How did it feel to admit you were wrong? How did it feel to ask for forgiveness?

Reflect on these descriptions of God. Which do you agree with the most and why? Which one is the most confusing to you and why? Write your own description of God.

God is **Almighty**: God has absolute power

God is **Awesome**: God inspires awe and amazement

God is **Compassionate**: God shows a deep concern for God's people & a desire to meet their needs

God is the **Deliverer**: God is the rescuer or savior

God is **Faithful**: God is reliable, trustworthy, true, & keeps God's promises

God **Forgives**: God grants pardon and cancels the debt of sin

God is **Good**: God is morally excellent, virtuous or righteous

God **Guides** God's People: God leads, accompanies, assists and gives direction/ guidance

Psalm 51



1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

5 And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit

– *Book of Common Prayer*

Questions for Reflection

What a relief! Doesn't it feel oh so good when someone forgives you, especially when you didn't deserve it? Forgiveness can be a wonderful gift of healing our hurts. It can feel like stepping out of the bath, clean, fresh and new again! Think of a time recently when you hurt someone's feelings. How did it make you feel? Did they forgive you? Is there someone you might want to forgive too?

Draw a picture of a big, clean heart. Imagine this is what God sees when God looks into your heart.

Jesus' Final Journey into Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-11



Steve Thomason, ©2020

When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, saying to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.’”

They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some people standing around said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. Those in front of him and those following were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!” Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

Questions for Reflection

Can you imagine the scene when Jesus entered Jerusalem? The Gospels make it sound like a parade mixed with a concert mixed with a pep rally. Imagine that you are in the crowd. What do you see and hear? What stands out to you about this event? What might you be feeling? Use as much detail as you can to describe the scene from your point of view.



Christ Church Charlotte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH