

## Lenten Studies 2020

Lent is a time for inner reflection, a time to reflect on our faith and the lectionary readings help us to consider who Jesus is for us and as a consequence who we are called to be.

What follows are suggested bible readings (taken from the lectionary) and some questions for you to use individually or as a group during the season of Lent.



### **THE QUESTIONS OF LENT!**

#### **Seductive Questions** - Week 1 (March 1<sup>st</sup>)

Reading – Matthew 4:1-11

Questions

1. Jesus is tempted by three things – bread/food, power and safety.  
Are these temptations bad in themselves? Why or Why not?
2. Why is important that Jesus was tempted?
3. What are we tempted by?
4. Have you ever felt like you were in the ‘wilderness’ or in a ‘desert period? How did it feel?



*Study for Nicodemus Visiting Jesus, Henry Ossawa Tanner (1899)*

#### **Secret Questions** – Week 2 (March 8<sup>th</sup>)

Reading – John 3:1-17

Questions

1. Why does Nicodemus come to Jesus at night? What ramifications might he have experienced if he came during the day?
2. In what ways does Nicodemus misunderstand Jesus?
3. What does it mean for you to be ‘born by the Spirit’?
4. What ‘secret’ questions do you have for God/Jesus?



Artwork by Huibing He (<http://www.omsc.org/art-at-omsc/huibing/huibing-portfolio.html>)

## Questions at Noon – Week 3 (March 15<sup>th</sup>)

Reading – John 4:5-42

Questions

1. Why is the woman at the well in the heat of the day?
2. Why is she shocked when Jesus asks for a drink of water?
3. What is the water Jesus gives? How does woman understand that? How do you?
4. How hard was it for her to run back to town (in which she is an outsider) with this message about Jesus being the Messiah?
5. When have you been so convicted of something that you have not been afraid to share your message?



<https://www.comolakeunitedchurch.com/new/john-9-1-41>

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## The Wrong Question – Week 4 (March 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Reading – John 9:1-41

Questions

1. Why was it the wrong question (why was this man born blind) to ask?
2. Why are his parents afraid to answer the question about their son's healing?
3. Why is the man who has been healed confused as to why people are asking him about the healing?
4. What is at stake for them all – man, parents, Jewish leaders, witnesses, disciples and Jesus?
5. Who is really blind?
6. What are your blind spots?



[Raising of Lazarus](#), from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tenn.

## Impertinent Questions – Week 5 (March 29<sup>th</sup>)

Reading – John 11:1-45

Questions

1. Why are Mary and Martha a bit cross with Jesus?
2. Why does Jesus take so long to come to them?
3. Martha has faith and yet doesn't. What does she believe? What does she doubt?

4. What does Martha understand about the resurrection? How do you understand resurrection?
5. What confession (v.27) does Martha make?
6. Who does Martha understand Jesus to be? Who do you?
7. When have you had doubts? How did you deal with them?



Image: Jesus Mafa

## **Who are You? – Week 6 (April 5<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday)**

Reading – Matthew 21:1-11

### Questions

1. Who do you think was in the crowd that day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?
2. Who did people understand Jesus to be?
3. Why the clothes and branches?
4. If you were in the crowd, who would you have been?
5. Who do you think Jesus is and why?

### **Other Lenten Bible Studies you might be interested in**

From Common Grace [https://www.commongrace.org.au/jesus\\_says\\_i\\_am](https://www.commongrace.org.au/jesus_says_i_am)

From Sanctuary Baptist in Warrnambool

<https://www.facebook.com/Sanctuary.Southwest/>