



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

February 23- March 1, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Lenten Sermon Series: "Out of the Wilderness"

Sermon Title: "Out of the Dark...Again?" by Rev. Stephen Coleman

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflection:

1. Do you identify with Nicodemus, and if so, how and why? What do you learn from Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus that can inform your journey of faith?
2. What does this passage tell you about Jesus?
3. Share your experience with John 3:16. When did you first hear it, and what does this well-known verse mean to you?

Monday, February 23: Read John 3:1-8

As we enter our second week of Lent and continue in Reville's Lenten sermon series, "Out of the Wilderness," we will enter a wilderness journey of our own. This week, we will wrestle with scripture passages that are far from simple and straightforward; in fact, they are among the most complicated and contested among Christians themselves. Yet that is what discipleship is about – being willing to enter the wilderness to wrestle with the difficult questions. It's also what our church is about – to come together to dialogue, support, and challenge any easy answers or one-sided thinking. In today's gospel, Jesus encounters the Pharisee Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus under the cloak of night seeking answers to the question, "Who exactly ARE you, Jesus?" His answer raises even more questions, speaking of being born from above or born again (translation depending). What does this mean? What does it mean to you?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Share your experience and reaction to the phrase "born again/born from above."*

Tuesday, February 24: Read John 3:9-17

It takes courage to go into the wilderness to seek God. It takes time to come out of the wilderness. We continue our Lenten journey in the wilderness today by going beyond the quick, famous verses that are too often learned in isolation (see verse 16) and not fully explored. Why is verse 17 not as famous as verse 16? Is this a message of inclusivity or exclusivity? Our answer lies in continuing our walk with Jesus to the cross; continuing to explore Christ's teachings, identity, and character – to get to know Christ more fully and completely. Where do we need to be doing a better job of this as individuals, as a church, and as a faith?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Re-read John 3:1-17 in multiple translations (you can Google NRSVue, CEB, and KJV). What is different? What difference could these translations make in your interpretation?*

Wednesday, February 25: Read Genesis 12:1-4a

We continue our journey in the wilderness today by exploring a foundational scripture passage of faith: God's call to Abram to leave everything he knew and wander into the wilderness towards a yet-to-be-disclosed location so that the descendants yet to be born to this octogenarian couple could be blessed. This is one of the greatest acts of faith in the Bible, and there is no scriptural evidence that Abram questioned God – he just “went, as the Lord had told him.” (NRSVue) It's difficult for us to read today's passage, however, without seeing the historical and modern implications of these words; how taking them at face value could lead to abuse, war, and disillusionment. When do we need to question, and when do we need to simply accept and step out in faith?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss your thoughts and feelings about today's reading in light of historical and modern events. What message is there for us today?*

Thursday, February 26: Read Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Often, we create a wilderness of our own making. We wrap our faith up with complicated rules, statutes, and rituals that cause us to lose sight of the original purpose. Just as we risk losing sight of Jesus's central message of love and grace in the midst of denominational and theological debates, Paul speaks to his own faith – the Jews – about losing sight of the central message of faith in Judaism, as evidenced in the scripture we read yesterday. Have we ever lost sight of what really matters in our faith? How often do we pull out Christ's “compass,” pointing us to love, faith, and grace to get us back on track?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Identify a “sticking point” for you in religion – something that causes strife, misinterpretation, and division. Now, research how many times that subject is discussed in the Bible compared to the subjects of love, peace, and grace.*

Friday, February 27: Read Psalm 121

We are never alone in the wilderness. God does not leave us to figure things out on our own. We turn to today's psalm to remind us of this incredible truth. Yes, we are on a journey, and it is one we can take with peace and assurance of constant help, eternal protection, and omnipotent vigilance.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Memorize the first three verses of today's psalm.*

Saturday, February 28: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 3:3

Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” (NRSV)

Sunday, March 1: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We let the darkness overwhelm us and paralyze us from changing course. We think forgiveness must be earned and that Your grace is not sufficient. We remain slaves to sin, rather than benefactors of Your great mercy. Forgive our sins and release us from the grip of our failures. Turn our eyes to the future You desire for us, for You alone are the Hope of the World. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

- Adapted from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church Prayer of Confession, May 12, 2023