

Taking Worship Home

Talk about one or more of the following with a friend or family member.

Have you ever spent any time in an arid wilderness? Where? What was it like?

What's the most dangerous thing you have ever done? Did you feel safe? Why or why not?

If you knew you were going to end up stranded in the middle of the Arizona wilderness, who would you want with you, and why?

Discuss with someone who can point you back to Jesus and his love for you.

Don't share it in a group setting, but do you know what your "spiritual Achilles' heel" is? If you don't know, talk about how you might identify a recurring weakness or point of attack. If one comes to mind, talk about inviting someone into your struggle so you don't battle alone.

Share a time when you learned dependence on Jesus or a time when you felt far away from God. What kinds of things did other people do or say during that time? What things were not helpful? What helped most?

What promise from Jesus is helping you get through this week? How does the Holy Spirit's work show up in that promise for you?

Sermon Notes



Sunday

**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,
left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit
into the wilderness. Luke 4:1**

Holy Spirit, faithful companion of pilgrims, join me to Jesus on his journey to the desert. Lead me into wilderness sands. Hold me in the Father's hands. Make me steadfast to face the evil one's attacks.

Be my pilot through the tempests of life. Guide and strengthen me in my plight, comfort me in the strife.

Holy Spirit, rain from heaven, make the saving waters of my little Jordan, my baptism into Christ, be the oasis that sustains the spiritually thirsty through life.

Fill me with your presence and love, in times of better and worse. Make the desolate place of temptation also be the place of testing, a time for me to grow in prayer and the Word. Amen.



**Sunday, May 5
St. Luke, Ann Arbor
www.stlukea.org**

Monday

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17-18a

Come Holy Spirit, defender of the saints! Make me vigilant and alert; let me not fall into the devil's snare. You know my spiritual Achilles' heel. You know the strength and wisdom I need from you.

As you led Jesus into the desert, so lead me also in Jesus' name to pray and trust in God's Word without fail. Baptized in the name of Jesus, you placed the helmet of salvation on me, so that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Tuesday

I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2

Lord, you are my refuge and my fortress! Cover me with your feathers and let me hide, safe and secure, under your wings. Let your faithfulness be my shield and sure defense.

I look around and see enemies, within and without, who are too strong for me. I grow weary of the hatred and violence in the news. I am tired of the sinful leanings of my own heart. I feel worn down and exhausted.

Holy Spirit, I need a safe place to rest, a refuge from my struggle. Surround me with your presence and protect me when I am most vulnerable. Amen.

Wednesday

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. Luke 24:49

Come Holy Spirit, promise of the Father, and clothe me with power from on high! Cover over my weakness with your strength. Wrap my frailty in your defenses. Arm me for the spiritual battle I will face today.

Since you declared war on the power of darkness in my life, be my light, my strength, and my shield. Conform me to the testing and the victory of my Lord Christ. Amen.

Thursday

On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." Luke 22:40

O, my Lord, my Teacher, my Friend—how often I have failed you, Jesus! How often I have failed to watch and pray! How quickly I lose my focus, lose my commitment, lose my way!

Do not treat me as my failures deserve. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me, but restore to me the joy of your salvation. Strengthen my weak hands. Release me from my past. Renew my prayers.

Let your Spirit intercede for me in my weakness, and teach me to pray. Amen.

Friday

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:18

Come Holy Spirit, anointing from above! You empowered the Son's obedience to the Father's mission, for me. In the perilous desert and garden, the Son suffered the tempter's attacks; Jesus knows deeply what I am going through.

I am tempted to be unfaithful. I struggle with obedience. Spirit of God, let your anointing help me discern what is right and wrong. In times of temptation, make me faithful like the Son to say: "Not my will, but yours be done." Amen.

Saturday

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. Isaiah 44:3

Praise be to you, O Lord of heaven and earth! You pour out your Spirit on the tired and thirsty! You cause the desert to bloom with life! You give your gifts to generations of those who love you!

I thank you, Lord, for the gift of family and friends. Please rain down your Holy Spirit onto the lives of the people I love. Today, I especially pray for ...

Give your Spirit freely, Lord, and refresh your people! Amen.