



Out of the Wilderness

A Personal Journey through Lent

Welcome to Out of the Wilderness.

This booklet is a companion to a series of short films which take us on a journey through this important period in the year.

There are plenty of books out there to use during Lent and many churches run Lent discussion groups and courses. So, in some respects, Out of the Wilderness is a personal Lent course for you to use as you wish.

There's one film for each of the weeks during Lent so you may like to watch them at those times. But of course it's entirely up to you – it will probably make more sense to watch them in the order that they appear and perhaps helpful to leave a few days between each one for personal reflection and prayer. You could also ignore the dates completely and watch them whenever you want to, whether it's Lent or not.

- **Starting Out – An Introduction**
- **Wanting – w/c 1st Sunday of Lent**
- **Wandering – w/c 2nd Sunday of Lent**
- **Waiting – w/c 3rd Sunday of Lent**
- **Restored – w/c 4th Sunday of Lent (w/c Mothering Sunday)**
- **Renewed – w/c 5th Sunday of Lent (w/c Passion Sunday)**
- **Holy Week & Easter (w/c Palm Sunday)**

Each of the films can be viewed through workrestpray.com/lent

You are welcome to use this companion booklet to note your personal reflections and insights.

Starting Out – An Introduction

Where you are now?

Spiritually speaking. Is life with God good or are you in somewhat of a dry time, a desert, a wilderness? Maybe it's a bit of both. Which aspects of church life are fulfilling and which are draining? How about your time for personal prayer, reading the Bible or other Christian writers? Is God-time affected by personal, family, work pressures – or the lack of them?

Where do you want to go to?

What thoughts do you have? What do you long for in your relationship with God? To know where God is leading you? To be able to hear God's voice? To discover what God wants for you? To know you are loved?

What do you need on the journey?

What's helped in the past? What do you want to take with you?

Wanting

What do you want from God?

What does God want for you?

How does what God wants for you match with what you want from God?

(And who's taking the lead...?)

Wandering

In what ways, do you already thank God?

In what ways do you already trust God?

How do you think you might further develop both trusting and thanking God?

Waiting

What you are waiting for at the moment?

Practical aspects of your life for which you are waiting a way forward or a decision?
Or waiting for a deeper understanding of what God wants for you? Or maybe it's both?

How might you nurture your ability to wait?

Restored

What words or phrases in Psalm 40 struck you?

Now take those words and pray from them. Talk to God in an open, honest way. Listen for anything God may be saying to you.

What helps you to know you have your feet secure on a rock?

What will be your song? (Maybe you'd like to write one.)

Renewed

What is your understanding of God's point of view on your life?

Describe your view from eagle's wings on your life at the moment

In what ways do you find your strength is renewed?

Holy Week & Easter

St Benedict wrote 'The life of a monastic ought to be a continuous Lent... and look forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing.'

You may like to make time on each day to read at least one of the passages shown (and all of them on Good Friday, especially). Use this page to note your reflections and insights as Holy Week proceeds through to Easter Day.¹

Palm Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem• Spends the night in Bethany	Matthew 21:1-11 Mark 11:1-11 Luke 19:29-40 John 12:12-19
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Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus leaves Bethany• Curses the fig tree on the way into the city• Weeps over Jerusalem• Cleanses the temple for the second time in His ministry• Late in day, looks into the Temple, then leaves the city• Spends the night in Bethany	Matthew 21:12-17 Mark 11: 12-19 Luke 19:41-47
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¹ The Gospels are not intended to be historically accurate so there are some debate about which day some events actually took place and there are similarities and differences between the accounts. Adapted from <http://www.jesus.org/death-and-resurrection/holy-week-and-passion/a-time-line-of-the-passion-week.html> and other material

Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves Bethany • Finds the fig tree withered; • Teaches on faith (Recorded in Matthew chapters 21-25, Mark 12-13, Luke 20-21) • The plot to betray Jesus • Spends the night in Bethany & is anointed by Mary (*John's account (12:1-8) of the anointing takes place the day before Palm Sunday) 	<p>Matthew 21:18-22 Mark 11:20-25 Matthew 26:1-16* Mark 14:1-2, 10-11* Luke 22:1-6</p>
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Wednesday (Silent Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No record in the Gospels, but Jesus prepares for Last Supper and Judas and Sanhedrin prepare for Jesus' arrest • Remains in Bethany throughout the day and stays night there
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Maundy Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter and John sent to make preparation for Passover meal • After sunset, the Last Supper; washing disciples feet; Judas departs • Lord's Supper instituted • To Garden of Gethsemane; Jesus' agony • Betrayal by Judas; arrest by Sanhedrin • To house of High Priest as Sanhedrin is convened; 	<p>Matthew 26:17-56 Mark 14:12-51 Luke 22:7-65</p>
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<p>Good Friday</p>	<p>The Trials of Jesus Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First trial, before Annas [night time hours]; Annas is looking for an accusation, biding time till Sanhedrin is gathered at High Priest's villa • Second trial before Sanhedrin, Jesus is condemned • Third trial, at dawn [meanwhile, Peter denies Jesus a third time; Jesus looks upon him]; the condemnation repeated, then Jesus taken to the Romans • Fourth trial before Pilate • Fifth trial before Herod • Sixth trial before Pilate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jesus is finally turned over to be crucified ○ Jesus mocked by Roman soldiers; crown of thorns ○ Judas hangs himself ○ Jesus bears His cross to gate on north of city and is crucified around 9 am <p>Jesus' Seven Sayings from the Cross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Father, forgive them..." • "Today...with me in paradise" • "Woman, behold thy son..." [darkness: from noon – 3 pm] • "My God, My God..." • "I thirst" • "It is finished" • "Into Thy hands..." <p>The Death of Christ</p> <p>About 3 pm: temple curtain torn, rocks split open; some graves opened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus' side pierced • Passover lambs slain in temple • Jesus buried by sundown 	<p>Between them, All four Gospels cover the events of Good Friday:</p> <p>Matthew 26:1-27:61</p> <p>Mark 14:53-15:47</p> <p>Luke 22:54-23:56</p> <p>John 18:13-19:42</p>
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Holy Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the request of the Jewish leadership, Pilate grants a guard and sets a seal on the tomb of Jesus	Matthew 27:62-66
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<p>Easter</p> <p>Day</p>	<p>The Resurrection</p> <p>Jesus rises from the dead before dawn and makes five appearances on the day of His rising:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To Mary Magdalene [given a message to the disciples] 2. To the other women who come to the tomb [intending to complete the burial preparation of His body] 3. To two followers on the Road to Emmaus 4. To Simon Peter [alluded to in Luke 24:33 and 1 Corinthians 1:5] 5. To the disciples [apart from Thomas, who is absent] 	<p>Matthew 28:1-15</p> <p>Mark 16:1-13</p> <p>Luke 24:1-35</p> <p>John 20:1-23</p>
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