

GROWING IN THE WILDERNESS

LENT 2022 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

WEEK 2: ORDER GROWING IN PRIORITIES

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

REFLECTION

Into chaos, Jesus brings order. Into shame, greed, and selfishness, God sends heaven.

By baptism, and the order that comes with that, God is growing a colony of heaven on earth.

Still, to be a citizen of heaven on earth is to feel like a resident alien.

~Bishop Wright

SCRIPTURE

Read Phil. 3:17-4:1. St. Paul establishes the order for our priorities.

Read Gen. 12:1-7. The reading for Lent 2 is Gen. 15, and Gen. 12 gives the backstory of Abram. God called Abram to stand out by physically calling him away from the place and culture surrounding him, into a new country, a new citizenship, a new way of being in the world.

Read Luke 13:31-35. Jesus' priorities were so at odds with the world surrounding him, that his life was endangered. It is often difficult to stand out and to stand firm, living as a citizen of heaven.

Read BCP 304-305. Following the Baptismal Covenant means we will stand out from the ways of this world.

DISCUSSION

- In what ways have you conformed to the priorities and ways of the world, in order to find "relief from homesickness"?
- In what ways have you stood up and stood out from the ways and priorities in this world, and instead have embraced heavenly citizenship's priorities? What is that like?
- In what ways has following the Baptismal Covenant led you to stand out?
- How do you intend to use this Lent as an opportunity to help bring order to your priorities? How has that been going?

ARTICLES

[For Further Discussion:](#)

How might we as whole congregations and communities reorder our priorities (including our financial priorities) to align with the Kingdom of God?

<https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/888/wait-and-pray>

PRAYER

Loving God we lay our lives before you today. By your grace and wisdom help us to order the lives you have given us by your word and ways, that we might fully live the truth of our creation and commission as your beloved amongst your beloved increasing beloved-ness in the earth. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

TAKE-AWAY

Identify one of the five vows in the Baptismal Covenant that you want to work on this week. List at least one concrete way that you will use that vow to re-order your priorities this week.

For example, if it is seeking and serving Christ, you might identify a ministry to serve in.