

## Seedling Group Questions for the First Sunday in Lent: "No and Yes" (March 10, 2019)

The sermon can be found at [www.lipstosing.wordpress.com](http://www.lipstosing.wordpress.com)

### Questions for Opening Up

In today's gospel, we catch up with Jesus in the wilderness. What's the wildest experience you've ever had? Have you ever been away from electricity or modern conveniences for an extended period of time? What was the hardest (or best!) part about it?

What is the hardest test you had to take in school or trial you've had to endure with work? How did it turn out?

### Read Romans 10:8b-13

Here Paul quotes Deuteronomy 30 and encourages the church in Roman to believe that recalling God's commandments and saving actions will strengthen them. Are there particular passages in the scriptures that you come back to or recall for strength?

How has God been generous to you when you called on him?

### Read Luke 4:1-13

What do you think are the most powerful forces seeking to distract people from God in the world today?

What are the most tempting or distracting forces for you?

### Putting Things Together

Tracey and Greg had to say No to certain things because they had decided to say Yes to one another. This can be a good analogy for our own life and the discernment process of understanding what ministries and relationships God may be calling us into.

When we as pastors and leaders of Epiphany ask others to serve on Council, Mutual Ministry, or any of our other ministries and groups because we have seen gifts for leadership, love of people and God, and enthusiasm for the mission of our congregation, we also accompany that invitation with saying: a faithful No is as good as a faithful Yes.

Are there times when you have had to say No to something good or something you would've liked to do because you had already said Yes to something else God had called you to?

### Making It Personal

In the sermon, Joseph says, "Within every YES there is a NO and within every NO there is a YES. As a congregation we help one another say YES to God and help one another say NO to the things that would hurt us, or hurt one another, and lead us away from God. We live together in partnership trusting that once and for all God has said YES to us in welcome and unconditional love."

Are there ways you see us as a congregation (of groups or friends within the congregation) helping one another order our Yeses and Nos? Are there ways that we could pursue this more intentionally?

### **Romans 10:8b-13**

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

### **Gospel: Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.