

March 16, 2003
Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18
Romans 8:31-34
Mark 9:2-10



Focus This is my beloved Son; listen to him.

Opening Prayer *Leader:* Loving God, you call us by name. And each of us responds:
All: Here I am, Lord.
Leader: Help us to be a reflection of your light and love.
All: Here I am, Lord.

Scripture Sharing Read the scriptures aloud. Pause for a moment between the readings. Each group member is invited to share a line from one of the readings that had an impact of him or her.

Reflection Abraham, our father in faith, was tested to offer his son in a bold and extreme way. God stepped in and replaced the son-sacrifice with a ram, honoring Abraham for his great faith. In the Gospel, the account of the Transfiguration shows Jesus bursting forth in glory and then changing the disciples to keep the wonder-filled experiences secret until after the resurrection.

Faith Sharing

1. When have you felt God putting you to the test?
2. When tested, have you ever experienced God saving you at the last moment in a surprising way?
3. Describe a time when you felt the wonder of God in a way that amazed you.
4. The Gospel shows that Jesus does not replace the Law and the Prophets; he fulfills them. How do you interpret this statement?

Action Response: *How do you live stewardship as your way of life?*

1. Make a phone call or sent an e-mail or note to someone you know who feels tested at this time
2. Be alert for experiences of the wonder of God around you. (John Garvey, in *America* magazine, defines spirituality as: "just stay awake.")
3. To remind yourself that God calls us by name, use the names of your family members, friends, and co-workers in a reverent way all week.

Closing Prayer

Individuals offer their intentions to bring to prayer.

During the Transfiguration, a voice came from the cloud: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." In your Son, loving God, we also are beloved. We hear you say to each of us, "This is my beloved son. This is my beloved daughter." May we live as those you love all throughout this Lenten season. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.