

Leader's Guide for
A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH FATHER MICHAEL HIMES
Program One: What Is Temptation, Really?

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations. As you know the weakness of all of us, let each one find you mighty to save, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- As Lent begins, take time to reflect on past experiences of Lent. What have they been like? Does one stand out? How have you distinguished Lent from the rest of the year?
- What does St. Ignatius mean by evil “tempts good with the good”? How has that been true in your life?
- What does Father Himes say is the real temptation in the Garden of Eden? How is that the same or different than other explanations you have heard of this pivotal story?
- How have you been tempted to “be God and not human”?
- Father Himes makes a connection between the temptations in the desert and the Garden of Gethsemane. How do you understand this connection?
- In week two of Lent, the focus is on the call of Abraham and the Transfiguration. What does Father Himes mean by “the freedom of God’s action”?
- Have you ever had a “mountaintop” spiritual experience? What was it? How did you “come down the mountain”?
- Of the insights offered by Father Himes in this program, which one comforts you the most? Which one challenges you the most?

Closing Prayer: Lord, our God, may this Lent be a time when we grow in appreciation of the gift of life. We thank you, Lord, for our humanity. We thank you for grace. We thank you for redemption. May we go where you lead. Amen.

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NOTE: This guide can be printed and cut down in size to be stored with the DVD version of this video program. Simply cut ¾ inch from each side of the page for a guide that, when folded, can be placed inside of the DVD case or attached to the DVD or VHS case.

For use with:

Lenten Journey With Father Michael Himes: What Is Temptation, Really? on VHS (V5040A) and DVD (D5040)

St. Anthony Messenger Press
28 W. Liberty St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202-6498
800-488-0488
www.AmericanCatholic.org

Leader's Guide for
A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH FATHER MICHAEL HIMES
Program Two: Danger and Desire

Opening Prayer: Lord, our God, as we walk deeper into Lent, may we go deeper into our own souls where you dwell. Lord, tonight, may we know a little more of the Great Mystery, a little more of you. Bring us to a place of spirit and life. Amen.

- The theme of this week is that of water. What has the symbol of water meant to you in the past? What new insights has this program given you into this deep symbol?
- The people of Israel had a great fear of the water. How do Scripture writers employ that fear to help us in our understanding of the living God?
- Throughout this series, Father Himes delves into the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures. What has the Old Testament meant in your spiritual journey? Have the insights of Father Himes given you a new perspective on these books?
- The woman at the well asks several questions. Which one do you find most intriguing for your journey?
- Father Himes tells us “there is not a wasted word in the Gospel of John.” When has this carefully crafted Gospel been important in your life?
- The woman at the well is seeking life. Where do you look for life?
- Consider Father Himes’s question: “What are you longing for? What are you dying for?”

Closing Prayer: Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. We ask for the courage this Lent to follow your way, to obey your truth, to receive your life. Create in us hearts open to the Spirit, open to change, open to new life. We ask this in your name. Amen.

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Leader's Guide for
A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH FATHER MICHAEL HIMES
Program Three: God Sees Into the Heart

Opening Prayer: Jesus, you are the Light of the World. May this night be yet another opportunity to dispel the darkness in our souls. May this be a night when we see clearly. May this be a night when we are drawn closer to you. We ask this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Clearly these readings point us toward the Easter Vigil. Have you experienced the Easter Vigil? How did the spreading of the light affect you?
- Father Himes describes the experience of the early Christians as they groped in the dark for the light. He asks us to get a sense of the danger and uncertainty of it all. When have you experienced, in reality or metaphorically, that kind of darkness?
- What does it mean “God sees into the heart”? How does that comfort you? How does that challenge you?
- The man born blind ultimately needs to testify to the power of Jesus. He must claim what happened to him. How do you testify to the power of Jesus in your life?
- If you are preparing for Baptism at Easter, what are you seeing now that you did not see before? Is “wrapping” coming off your eyes? How?
- In this video, Father Himes asks the stark question: “What does it mean to see the truth?” Discuss.
- Paul’s second letter to Timothy tells us grace has always been abundant in the world. Do you believe that? How is grace abundant in our world now? How is grace abundant in your life?

Closing Prayer: Lord our God, your grace is abundant in this world. Open our eyes to see it. And once we see it, give us the courage to testify to you. May we be the people who speak the truth, no matter what it may cost us. You have given us a gift and we say “yes.” Amen.

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Lenten Journey With Father Michael Himes: God Sees Into the Heart on VHS (V5040C) and DVD (D5040)

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Leader's Guide for
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Program Four: Endless Possibilities

Opening Prayer: Jesus, as we continue our Lenten journey, may we be faithful to you to the end, just as you have been faithful to us. There is no end to the depth of your life, of your love. As we explore that depth and that love tonight, may we grow in wisdom and understanding. May that wisdom and understanding be placed in your service. Amen.

- Father Himes places great emphasis on the “Margaret poem” by Gerard Manley Hopkins. What did it mean to you?
- You have heard the Lazarus story before. What did it mean to you before tonight? How have you heard it explained? What new insights did you gather tonight?
- “Come and see” is a brief but powerful sentence in the Gospel of John. How did Jesus use it in the call of the disciples? How did the disciples use it in the story of Lazarus? When you think of the meaning of life, what have you been invited to “come and see”?
- When Jesus confronts the death of his friend Lazarus and when he confronts his own death, he “sighs, is troubled, weeps.” What does this mean about death? How have you reacted to death? (Remember, there is no “right way” to respond to death.) How does Jesus’ reaction to death influence yours?
- How does the Resurrection of Jesus differ from the raising of Lazarus?
- What does Father Himes mean by “endless possibilities”?
- What are the “endless possibilities” offered to us in Baptism?

Closing Prayer: Jesus, you treasured life and yet chose to give it up for our sake. May your death not be our hope. May your Resurrection open us to “endless possibilities.” May we, from this night forward, live as a people aware of the abundance of life. May we live without fear, knowing life never runs out. May we, baptized into your death, live as a people moving always into new life with you. Amen.

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