

**“GOD ON THE MOVE”**  
**“God Moves... into the Desert”**

Today, we took a big leap into the Desert. During this first Sunday of Lent we have been reminded that “God is on the move.” There are many instances in life when it is hard to keep moving, maybe you received bad news, or a friend let you down, or you have lost your sense of self. In the midst of all this despair, God moves with us into this desert and moves with us as we seek restoration. Remember as you enter this desert of Lent that Jesus knows and loves you and that is faced with the real temptations we face each day. (Study Guide written by Pastor Rebecca Goltry Mohr)

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon: **“God Moves... into the Desert”**

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*Lord, I'm not always eager to do your will. I'd often much rather do my own will. Please be with me on this Lenten journey and help me to remember that your own spirit can guide me in the right direction. I want to fix my weaknesses but the task seems overwhelming. But I know that with your help, anything can be done. With a grateful heart, I acknowledge your love and know that without you, I can do nothing. (Creighton University, online ministry)*

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## Study Guide

### **Monday, March 11: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

To be an Israelite was to be a beneficiary of a long history of God's gracious providence and care, which made slaves into free and prosperous citizens. Adoration of the gifts God has blessed them with, and a confession of faith, declaring the story of God's actions are two major themes in this scripture. We are likewise called to remember how God is with us through the rough patches, and continues to move with us as we journey throughout life. Our God cares for us intimately and for this, we are grateful! **Daily challenge:** Move Upward- Find ways to move into a deeper relationship with God, allow God's rhythms of justice and righteousness to become your movement upward.

### **Tuesday, March 12: Luke 4:1-13**

The temptation of Jesus for 40 days in the desert, is one reason why our Lenten season is 40 days. The whole time Jesus is in the desert he ate nothing. As Jesus becomes famished he is put to the test by the devil. Jesus' real struggle in the desert resonates with us as we are in the midst of our own wilderness journeying of Lent. We take comfort that Jesus is resilient and perseveres through it all. **Daily challenge:** Move inward- Find ways to move into knowing yourself, allow your gifts and passions to be realized in all that you do. Move toward accepting yourself, just the way you are.

### **Wednesday, March 13: Romans 10:8b-13**

This scripture's theme is covenant renewal, and the covenant redefinition that Jesus Christ initiates. We know that after exile, God restores Israel, enabling it to keep the law in a new way. Paul declares in this scripture that the resurrection is an action of God and belief in Jesus' resurrection is located in the heart. During Lent, we spend time reflecting on how we have strayed from the love of God. Today make time to pray for a renewed heart that awaits and affirms Jesus' resurrection. **Daily challenge:** Move outward- Find ways to assess the community you live, work and play in. Move out beyond yourself to help a neighbor, volunteer for an organization, or make connections that challenge your daily comfort.

### **Thursday, March 14: Romans 10:14-17**

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" The hard work of evangelism in the early church would have meant walking the dusty roads and going to the least expected places to share the good news of Christ. Paul is being a cheerleader for those "on the move" by spreading the gospel. Paul knows of the hard work it takes to share one's faith and to mobilize communities. **Daily challenge:** Move ofward (of the church) - Find and commit to ways to plug into the church and become a more committed follower of Jesus by your service to our local congregation. Move throughout the hallways and classrooms, praying for teachers, participants, and for the holy connection that happens when we share and learn about how God is moving in our church today.

### **Friday, March 15: Psalm 91**

Psalm 91 has served throughout the centuries and continues to serve as a source of encouragement and strength for the people of God. In Lent, we need the comfort of knowing that God is our refuge and fortress. Through all of the tumult of this world, we have a God that is sovereign, good and cares profoundly for our welfare. **Daily challenge:** Move into Wholeness- Throughout the week you have been challenged to move upward, inward, and outward and ofward. Today, reflect on how each of these movements has helped you to welcome wholeness in life and relationships. As you journey throughout Lent, God will continue to purify you and put a new and right spirit within you.