

## It's Intentional...

---

### Introduction

Because so God loved the world, God gave. Love blossoms into generosity—always.

Throughout the season of Lent, we'll be taking a journey on the *Pathways to Generosity*. We'll meet Jesus along his sacrificial journey to the cross. Each Sunday we'll take time to reflect on Jesus' generosity revealed in his self-giving love for all the world, and how his acts of generosity encourage and inspire us.

### Discussion Questions for Mark 1:9-15

1. How do you usually make a decision? Are you one who intentionally plans before acting, or are you more of an act first and then plan later kind of person?
2. A lot happens in seven verses: baptism, temptation, and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. How does it help to see Jesus' temptation in context of his story?
3. To be baptized by John was an act of giving your life back to God. How do we see giving at work as we baptize in the name of Jesus? Who is doing the giving?
4. Mark tells us about Jesus being "immediately" driven into the wilderness for his temptation. Why is there no break between his baptism and temptation?
5. In the other gospels we hear details of Jesus' encounter with Satan. Here we don't. What does it mean to you when you simply hear that Jesus was tempted?
6. In the wilderness Jesus has a choice: be faithful to God or not. He chooses faith. How is his faithfulness an intentional act of generosity? What is motivating his decision?
7. Following his temptation and John's arrest, Jesus begins his public ministry. "The Kingdom of God has come near," he says. How does his earlier experiences prepare him for his ministry? Why do you think he's ready to begin to give his life (and love) away?

### Prayer

Lord, Help me to see all the blessings in my life. I come to you with an open and grateful heart. Teach me to be a good steward of all that I have. Open my eyes and my heart to see all the opportunities around me. Fill my heart and let me respond in every situation with an attitude of worship and a spirit of generosity. Renew my faith as I pray, "God, how are you calling me to give?" Amen.

**Next week: Mark 8:31-38**