

## Lent Week 3 - March 5-11

This reading guide, as well as the guide for each week, can be found on our website: [www.thebranchonline.org/2015/02/lent/](http://www.thebranchonline.org/2015/02/lent/)

You can also find more details about this reading guide and how to use it by clicking on “Week 1 - Reading Guide” and reading page 1.

Th	Exodus 19:1-9a 1 Peter 2:4-10
F	Psalm 19 Exodus 19:9b-15 Acts 7:30-40
Sa	Psalm 19 Exodus 19:16-25 Mark 9:2-8
Su	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 <i>Passage we'll be preaching on: John 2:13-22</i>
M	Psalm 84 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
T	Psalm 84 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19 Hebrews 9:23-28
W	Psalm 84 Ezra 6:1-16 Mark 11:15-19

## For reflection:

This week we'll read about the journey of Abraham and Sarah: two people, who waited for *decades* and *decades* to see God's promises fulfilled. As you walk through the 40 days of Lent, you too may find yourself waiting. If so, follow Abraham and Sarah's lead: be honest with God (remember how they laughed at God's promises!?!). They didn't hold anything back. Neither should you.

But they also held onto faith and hope. As you are honest with God this week — let go of fear or doubt. Look to Abraham and Sarah and then ask, what would it look like for me to have faith and hope as I wait?

It's so tempting to run through life trying to control every detail. But central to following Jesus is letting go; laying down our lives; taking up our cross. As you reflect this week, what do you need to lay down? What specifically are you trying to control that you need to let go of? Write those things down and ask God for the courage and persistence to surrender those parts of your life.

One of the reasons we are able to give up control and surrender our lives is because of God's stunning generosity. In Christ we receive “undeserved kindness” (Romans 3:23 NLT) and the “free gift” of being made whole and right with God (Romans 4:16 NLT). This week as you read, make a simple list in the margins of this page of the things God has freely given to you. Let this list be the starting point for praise and gratitude.