



## Group Guide

# Temptation

*September 21, 2025*

**Main Passage: Matthew 4:1-11**

## Theological Theme

Before Jesus began His earthly ministry, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted. He answered each temptation of the enemy with the truth of God's Word. This is to be our response to temptation too.

## Introduction

- ❓ What are some other examples of temptations faced and given into that you can think of from the Bible?
- ❓ What makes temptation so deceptive in our lives even when we can often identify the destruction that may await on the other side?

## 1. Provide for Yourself (Matthew 4:1-4)

Last week, in our study of Matthew, we read the story of Jesus's baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and then, in our passage today, promptly led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted.

- ❓ Jesus's temptation happened right after His baptism, and ahead of His public ministry. Why might God have ordered these events this way?
- ❓ Why would the temptation of bread be particularly enticing during this time? When was a time you felt prone to certain temptations?
- ❓ Application: Where are you tempted to provide for yourself, instead of relying on God's provision, today? How might you rely on Him by focusing on His Word instead?

## 2. Test God (Matthew 4:5-7)

In his second temptation, the devil sought to tempt Jesus by taking Scripture out of context. It is important to recognize the enemy knows Scripture and can apply it incorrectly to his own advantage. This is still a tactic he uses today. We must know the truth in God's word to spot Satan's lies. This is one of the reasons it is so important to study the Word regularly.

- ❓ How did the devil shift his approach in his second temptation? What would be tempting about this situation?
- ❓ What can we learn from this about the ways Satan repeatedly and strategically tests us in daily life?
- ❓ Application: How has God shown that He is trustworthy and faithful in your life?

### 3. Take Power (Matthew 4:8-11)

The devil's last temptation is one that he still actively tempts believers with today: the promise of power. What is interesting here is that the devil did not have the authority to give Jesus these things. The kingdoms of the world and their splendor belonged to their Creator, God. Many times, what the enemy offers us isn't even in his power to give! Have you ever been tempted by something, gone down that road, and found that things did not work out like you hope? The enemy and anything he might dangle before us with glittering promises offer no satisfaction, only God can satisfy.

- ❓ What did the devil seek to entice Jesus with in his third temptation? Why is this important?
- ❓ How was this a temptation to give Jesus "the right things in the wrong way"? How might Satan seek to entice us similarly?
- ❓ Application: Where might Satan be tempting you to pursue the right things in the wrong ways now? How should you respond?

### Conclusion

- ❓ Where are you currently facing temptation? What can you learn from Jesus's response to help you respond similarly?
- ❓ How can we, as a group, support one another as we face temptation in life? Why is it important that we not operate in isolation?
- ❓ How does living according to God's Word not only keep us from temptation, but also help us point others to the truth of God's Word?