

DEEPER ROOTS

February 26- March 2

Planting Seeds: Read Matthew 4:1-11

We are starting a new series that will take us up until Palm Sunday. As we prepare to celebrate easter we will be looking at the Temptations of Jesus. Before we study those temptations, though, we're thinking about the idea that Jesus went out to the wilderness on purpose to fast and pray. Jesus knew that before He started His earthly ministry, it was important to spend time and energy spiritually disciplining Himself for what was to come. If we are going on a vacation, we spend time shopping and researching and preparing to have fun. If we are going on a business trip, we spend time beforehand studying and communicating to prepare to have success. In life we are going to go through trials. There are going to be spiritual difficulties, and we need to prepare in advance for them. If we have stretched and worked our spiritual muscles, before trials come, we can endure and persevere in the midst of difficulty. Spiritual disciplines are spiritual exercises that allow us to endure the pain of life. They build our hearts, minds, and spirits into mature and healthy vessels for faithfulness. Jesus thought it important to practice spiritual discipline, we should too. How have spiritual disciplines prepared you for unexpected circumstances in the past? Where do you currently need to practice spiritual disciplines to strengthen your faith? What is one way you can focus your heart and mind as you prepare to celebrate Easter this year?

Digging Deep: Read Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, Hebrews 4:14-16

We are going to spend the next several weeks as a church talking about temptation as we watch Jesus deal with temptation. In these two passages we see the same story presented from ever so slightly different perspectives. As you study the temptations of Jesus for yourself, what do you notice? The God of the universe thought it was important to come and be tempted just as we are tempted. This is an important story for us as we understand the nature of Jesus. God Himself has been tempted in the flesh, just as we are tempted, and He did not sin. His power over sin and evil should be of great encouragement to us. How does it make you feel to consider that Jesus was tempted just as you are? What confidence does it give you that He has power over sin, temptation, and evil?

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 2.26-3.2.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email Terence@pioneerdrive.org.