

# WILDERNESS

## Week 3 - Temptation: Idolatry

Today's Passages: **Matthew 4:1-7** (pg. 1376) & **Exodus 17:1-7** (pg. 101)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

**John 4:21**

Where is God inviting you to see his **FAITHFUL PRESENCE** amid your current circumstances?

### For Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion:

Consider reading through the book of Matthew during this series. A simple plan can be found at <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/84-matthew>.

Read **Matthew 4:1-7**, **Exodus 17:1-7**, and the other verses on the notes page.

- *What sticks out to you? What is challenging to process?*
- *What connections and differences do you see in these passages?*
- *How do you think **trust** and **worship** are related?*

Pastor Jeremiah said, "Do you want Jesus to reveal himself to you? Trust him and obey him. That is what worship is: It is choosing allegiance to him, living as though he is the owner of all we are and all we have, and there he will show himself to us."

- *How is this different than giving into the temptation to "test God?"*
- *Jesus gives his promise to reveal himself in the same passage where he promises the Holy Spirit to his followers. How do you think our obedient worship of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit are connected?*
- *What else are you processing about this?*

*How did you answer the closing question (in the box at the top of this page)? What does it look like to choose worship there? Find someone to pray with/for you about this as you live into it.*

### How to begin a new life in Christ:

Jesus has already done everything necessary for us to have new life and freedom in him! We can choose to respond to this by:

- 1) Acknowledging we (like everyone else!) need new life in Jesus.
- 2) Asking God to forgive our sins by the work of Jesus.
- 3) Receiving new life from God by trusting in Jesus as the one who frees us (as Savior) and leads us (as Lord).

**You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:**

*Jesus, I have been lost in deep darkness and need you to rescue me. I have done things I need your forgiveness of; I have lived in separation from you and need you to reconcile us. You died and rose from the dead, so I know you can do this in my life. I receive you as my rescuing savior and put my faith in you as my Lord.*

*Help me to live for you in the light from this day forward. In your name, amen.*

**If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "JESUS" to 262-302-3021.**

**We'll send you some exciting next steps and celebrate with you!**

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV]  
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