



## **Discussion Guide — tempted+tried (week 1)**

**Date:** February 12, 2026

**Series:** tempted+tried

**Message:** To be Led or Lost

**Scripture:** Mark 1:12-20 (New Revised Standard Version updated edition)

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### **Opening Prayer**

Lord, in the wilderness seasons of our lives, steady us. When we drift, call us back. When we are tempted, help us notice Your voice. Lead us again into life. Amen.

### **Introduction & Context**

This week we wrestled with a simple but searching question:

#### **Are we being led... or are we becoming lost?**

We began by reflecting on Luke 15—lost sheep, lost coin, lost sons. There are many ways to become lost:

- We drift.
- We are mishandled.
- We choose our own way.

Then we turned to Mark 1 and noticed something important: Jesus goes into the wilderness—but He is not lost. He is led.

The wilderness is not punishment. It is preparation.  
Temptation does not automatically mean failure.  
The deeper issue is direction.

Lent invites us to choose: to be led by the Spirit or to drift into being lost.





## Read the Scripture

Mark 1:12–20

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## Discussion Questions

### 1. Lost in Different Ways

Luke 15 shows different kinds of lostness (drifting, misplaced, rebellious).

- Which of those feels most familiar to you right now?
- What tends to cause you to drift spiritually?
- Have you ever realized you were “lost” slowly rather than suddenly?

### 2. Led into the Wilderness

Jesus is led into the wilderness by the Spirit.

- What difference does it make to know Jesus was *led*, not lost?
- Have you experienced a “wilderness” season that later proved to be preparation?
- How can we discern whether we are being led into testing or simply drifting?

### 3. Temptation and Direction

Temptation is not just about behavior—it’s about whose voice we follow.

- What voices most often shape your decisions (fear, comfort, approval, busyness)?
- Where do you feel tension between self-direction and surrender?
- What does it practically mean to “yield to the Spirit”?

### 4. Repent and Follow



Jesus says, “Repent... Follow me.”

Repent = reorient. Follow = surrender direction.

- What might repentance look like for you this season?
- What “nets” might need loosening in order to follow more freely?
- Why do you think the disciples responded “immediately”?

## 5. Good News for the Lost

The Good Shepherd seeks the one. The Father runs to welcome home.

- How does knowing you can return change your posture toward repentance?
- What makes it difficult to believe it’s “never too late” to turn back?
- How can we embody that same welcome for others?

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### Key Takeaway

Lent is not about condemnation.

It is about returning.

The question is not “Are you tempted?”

The question is “Who is leading you?”

### Next Step — P.A.R. (Pray • Act • Reflect)



**Pray:** Ask honestly:  
“Where have I been drifting?”  
Invite the Spirit to lead you back.

**Act:** Following Jesus has always been less about having it figured out and more about taking the next faithful step.

As a church, we are beginning **Practicing the Way – Week 1**. Consider making that your concrete next step.

At a minimum, choose one act of reorientation this week:

- Return to daily prayer.
- Fast from a distraction that has been shaping you.
- Reach out to reconcile a relationship.
- Adjust your schedule to follow more intentionally.

**Reflect:** At week’s end, ask:

- Where did I sense temptation?
- Where did I sense God leading?
- What helped me turn instead of wander?

## Closing Prayer

Good Shepherd, when we wander, seek us. When we resist, soften us. When we are tempted, steady us. Lead us, not just into the wilderness, but through it—back into life with You. Amen.

*Created from original content with the assistance of ChatGPT.*