



Life Group Discussion Guide
“The Battle Beneath the Behavior” – Matthew 4:1-11
Scott Paulson – January 11, 2026

Main thought:

Temptation is ultimately a battle of trust—whether we will trust God’s love, God’s Word, and God’s plan, or take control ourselves.

Ice-Breaker

- Share something you’re looking forward to this coming year.

Questions

1. What details from Matthew 4:1-11 stand out to you that you may not have noticed before?
2. If the nature of temptation is ultimately a battle of trust not just behavior, how does that change the way you think about temptation?
3. Discuss the first temptation to turn stones to bread in verses 1-4. How is this a temptation to doubt God’s love? How are we tempted to doubt God’s love and provision in our lives?
4. Discuss the second temptation to test God’s word. How are we tempted to doubt God’s Word?
5. Discuss the third temptation to doubt God’s plan. How are we tempted to take shortcuts to God’s plan? Why is it tempting, and what’s at stake when we do?
6. Discuss “Hope in our Battle”. Which one stood out to you and why?
 - a. God can be approached for mercy and help. (Heb. 4:15-16)
 - b. God will always provide a way out. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - c. God gave us His Word to combat the enemy’s lies. (Eph. 6:17)
7. What other God-given tools and resources have you found helpful and hopeful in your own battle with temptation?
8. The message emphasized that when it comes to temptation more is at stake than we think, including our future, the future of others, and our faith.
 - a. Have you seen this play out in your own life or someone else’s?
9. Why is it important to remember that winning the battle of temptation is not just nice for us, but it empowers us to serve others more effectively for Jesus’ sake?
10. Personal reflection question:
 - a. Who could you invite into your life for encouragement, accountability, or Scripture reading this season?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for each other.