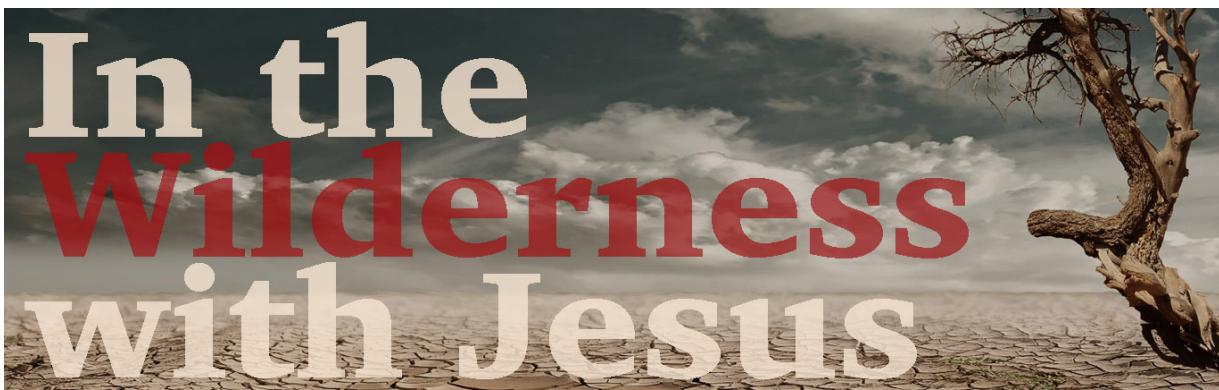


Sunday 2/25 - Saturday 3/3



In the Wilderness with Jesus

Temptation 2: "Throw yourself down"

by:Elder Edward Martin

Warm-Ups (15 min)

If your group has more than 7 people, you're encouraged to split into men's and women's groups for "Warm Ups". Also, it often works better to go around the circle three times instead of each person having to answer all three questions at once.

1. Are you a cat or a dog person? Why?
2. Do you watch the Olympics? What is your favorite event?
3. What would you want written on your tombstone? Why?
4. What temptation is tough for you to resist?

Large Group Prayer (10 min)

Take turns praying (1) Thanksgivings, (2) for each other's needs, and (3) for our community. [**Click here \(/index.php/component/content/?id=181&Itemid=1627\)**](#)for creative ideas on how to pray as a group.

1. Pray for individual needs, things we are thankful for, and our community.
2. Pray for Pastor Andrew Farhat as their family moves to Denver.
3. Pray for Pastor AJ and the start up team as they continue to prepare the Renewal Church property and the community around Renewal Church that they hear the Gospel when it is presented to them.
4. Pray for those who live with temptations that they think are too big to resist.

Study Questions (35 min)

About the Sermon

Read Matthew 4:5-7

1. Satan quotes scripture to Jesus in a bid to convince Jesus to throw himself down. How does Jesus respond?
2. Have you ever been "tempted" or "dared" to do something that you knew wasn't right? If so, how did you respond?

3. Read verses 1 and 2:
 - What physical needs did Jesus have in verse 2?
 - What effect could these needs have had in his decision making process?
4. When you are thirsty or hungry, how do these conditions affect your decision making in regards to temptation?
 - What happens if you go grocery shopping while you are starving?
5. Read Matthew 26:41:
 - What are some things we can turn to when temptation is about to overtake us?
 - What remedies are there for us when we give in to temptation?

A Deeper Look

Read 1 Timothy 6:9, Luke 11:4, 1 Corinthians 10:13

1. What temptation is Timothy referring to in verse 9?
 - Is there anything wrong with money in and of itself?
 - At what point does Timothy see a problem with wealth?
2. This verse in Luke is the last petition from the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray.
 - What does this tell us about temptation that Jesus knew in advance about us?
3. 1 Corinthians 10 gives us hope when we are facing temptation.
 - What does this verse say to you when you are tempted to the point of giving in?

Life Application

Read Judges 16:5, James 1:13-14

1. In Judges, what did the Philistines promise Delilah in exchange for secret to Samson's strength?
2. What does James say in James 1:13 to people who would accuse God of tempting them?
 - Why do you think James felt it necessary to make people aware of this?
 - Why do you think people want to put the blame on God?
3. Verse 14 gives insight into who is to blame for temptation.
 - Does this verse make you squirm or make you uncomfortable? Why?
 - Do you see a connection between this verse and the verse 14?
 - Discuss this connection within the group.

Discipleship Trios (25 min) The goal is to have intentional time to share your journey with others. Break into same-gender groups of three and move to separate spaces. If numbers necessitate flexibility, form groups of 2 instead.

- Review the *listener commitments* (/Images/LIFEGroup_Documents/Study%20Support%20Downloads/listener_commitments.pdf) if you haven't done so in a while.
- The goal is not to pressure others into sharing more than they want to, or to give unsolicited advice, but to ask others how God is stretching them, be challenged by God's Word together, ask what others are planning to do about their growth areas, and ask how you can support them!

Share Your Journey: What have you heard from God through your Life Journal / Bible readings this week?

What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent and/or grow?

- If you need additional accountability questions, try pulling from this list (/images/LIFEGroup_Documents/Study%20Support%20Downloads/20170521_Accountability_Qs.pdf) or the accountability questions in this doc (<http://toddengstrom.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/LTG-Overview-Formatted.pdf>) in order to spark reflection and discussion.
- When you hear a confession, you're encouraged to speak God's forgiveness!
- If you feel one of your group members is blind to something, (1) think about whether or not you're the right person to bring it up, (2) ask permission to share something, (3) phrase it as a question.

Discipleship Trio Prayer Time

- Share: How do you see the Lord speaking to you in the last few weeks? What is he saying?
- Share any personal struggles in your life, how can we pray for you? Pray for yourself to be a person who can share His grace.
- Where do see the Lord working in the life of others especially a non-Christian and how could you come alongside of them?
- Pray for each other.

Optional Worship Song (+5 min)

1. If you'd like, you can sing a worship song as a group. Don't have a musician? Sing along to a lyric video: SJDenver.org/Songs (/songs)
 - a. Advent/Christmas songs can be found at SJDenver.org/ChristmasSongs (/christmassongs)

Serve Our City

1. Has your group planned an opportunity to serve our city for this semester? Click Here for a list of Service Ideas! (</images/Serve.pdf>)

Feedback

1. Was there a glitch in today's material? Want to request a song? Do you have a suggestion? Click Here! (<http://goo.gl/forms/FQVVxQgpAQ>)