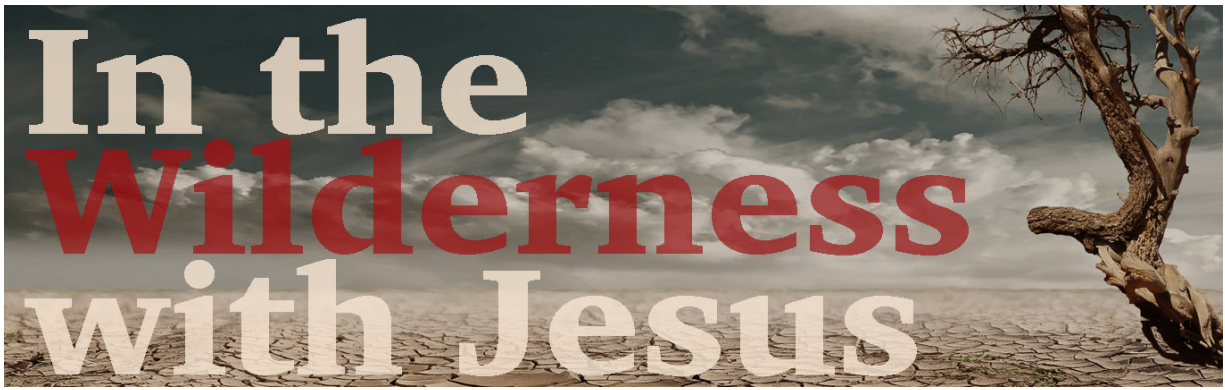


**Sunday 2/18 - Saturday 2/24**



## ***In the Wilderness with Jesus***

### ***Temptation 1: "Turn these stones to bread"***

by: Elder Rick Keagy

## **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. What is your favorite sound?
2. What is your favorite smell?
3. What is your favorite time of year?

## **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 and thanksgivings.
2. Pray for Pastor Andrew Farhat as their family moves to Denver.
3. Pray for Renewal Church construction – safety, quick completion, financial provision, etc.
4. Pray for those spreading the gospel in distant lands.

## **Study Questions (35 min)**

### **About the Sermon**

Read Matthew 4:1-4

1. Why do you think that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil? (v.1)
2. How long had Jesus been fasting when he was approached by the "tempter"?
  - o What was his condition? (v.2)
3. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were "at the end of your rope" and may have been persuaded to disobey God?

4. What are some of the ways that we are tempted to look beyond God for our provision?

### **A Deeper Look**

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-5

1. What do these verses tell us about the purpose of God's testing and humbling us?
2. How does God provide for us in times of testing? (v. 4)
3. Discuss what it means to you to be disciplined by God. (v. 5)
4. How is this discouraging?
5. How is it encouraging?

### **Life Application**

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10

1. Describe a time when overcoming adversity, resisting temptation, remaining obedient, and/or enduring discipline in any area of your life was an encouragement to others.

## ***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](/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](/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 are you being tempted or tested in the last few weeks? What is He trying to teach you?
- 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 \(/songs\)](http://SJDenver.org/Songs (/songs))

a. *Advent/Christmas songs can be found at [SJDenver.org/ChristmasSongs \(/christmassongs\)](http://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>)