



Sermon Discussion Guide

July 12, 2026

Refresh

Read Matthew 4:1-11 to get the Scripture passages back in your mind.

Discuss

Have you ever had someone tell you, "I know how you feel," in a moment of deep suffering? In what ways was that encouraging or, possibly, discouraging? Why is it so significant that Hebrews teaches Jesus can truthfully say that to us? How should that shape the way we approach Him in our struggles?

Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:14-16 teach that Jesus was tempted yet remained without sin. Why is it vital that Jesus was truly tempted and yet was sinless?

Matthew intentionally parallels Jesus' experience with Israel's wilderness testing. What similarities did you observe, and what does it mean that Jesus succeeded where Israel repeatedly failed? In what ways should this strengthen our confidence in Him?

Pastor Mark emphasized that God does not tempt us (James 1:13), yet He does sovereignly lead His people into times of testing. How do you distinguish between tempting and testing? Can you think of a time God used a difficult season to strengthen your faith?

Jesus was at His weakest physically after forty days of fasting when Satan came to tempt Him. What does this teach us about the way Satan often attacks believers? How can we prepare ourselves before seasons of weakness or vulnerability?

Pastor Mark mentioned that Jesus actually experienced temptation more intensely than we do because He never gave in. How does that perspective change the way you think about Christ's sympathy for our own temptations and struggles with sin?

Hebrews 4:16 encourages believers to "draw near with confidence to the throne of grace." Why is it often hard to draw near to God when overcome with temptation? What rhythms can we establish in our lives to help ready us for temptation?