



Sermon Discussion Guide

July 19, 2026

Refresh

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

Discuss

Pastor Mark compared Esau's response to hunger (Genesis 25) with Jesus' response after forty days of fasting. What does each man's response reveal about what he valued most, and what does that teach us about our own hearts when we are faced with temptation?

Each of Satan's temptations appealed to a legitimate desire (food, protection, or a kingdom), yet Jesus refused to satisfy those desires outside of the Father's will. Why is it often easier to recognize blatantly sinful actions than sinful shortcuts to good things? Can you think of ways that we are sometimes tempted in this regard?

Jesus answered every temptation with, "It is written." What does this teach us about the authority and sufficiency of Scripture in spiritual warfare? How can we prepare ourselves to respond biblically when temptation comes unexpectedly?

We see in the text that Satan quoted Scripture but twisted its meaning. Why is it important to interpret Scripture in light of the whole Bible rather than isolating individual verses? Have you ever seen Scripture misused to justify sinful behavior or selfish desires? How can we grow in recognizing this?

Jesus succeeded where Adam and Israel failed. How does seeing Jesus as the "last Adam" help us better understand His role as our Savior and representative? Why was His perfect obedience essential for our salvation?

Hebrews 4:15–16 reminds us that Jesus was tempted in every respect, yet without sin. How does knowing that Christ truly understands temptation encourage you when you struggle with sin, guilt, or discouragement? What does it look like to "draw near to the throne of grace" in those moments?

The sermon concluded with two applications: (1) know what is written (in the Bible), and (2) run to Christ for grace. What practical steps can we take this week to better hide God's Word in our hearts and depend on Christ amid temptation?