

DISCUSSION GUIDE || February 25 & 26, 2026

REFLECT on **Lent**

1. **Where are you in your journey** with Jesus thus far in the season of Lent?

REMEMBER

- When Jesus is baptized, he hears the voice of the Father call him “beloved.” Then, Jesus is led into the wilderness to pray, fast, and prepare for his kingdom mission. Then, the voice of the Tempter begins to whisper in his ear...“feed yourself...persuade everyone...take the shortcut.”
- The Temptations are “good” ideas but they are insidious shortcuts that deviate from God’s way.
- The Tempter wants us doubting what we know and distracted from the way that leads to life.
- Jesus, who is fully God and fully human, resists temptation by staying focused on God’s words.

READ **Matthew 4.1-11**

REFLECT on the **passage**

1. **What word, phrase, or observation** is the most interesting to you from this familiar passage? **Why?**

Henri Nouwen reframed the 3 temptations of Jesus in light of what Christians can face today in his book, *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*.

2. Nouwen says the 1st temptation is “from relevance to prayer” – to move from people-pleasing & the fear that you’re only loved for what you *do* to knowing that you are loved by a God who calls you “Beloved.” The 2nd temptation is “from popularity to ministry” – to move from getting value from what others think of you to knowing that God’s love isn’t earned, it’s freely given. The 3rd temptation is “from leading to being led” – to move from taking your own way to trusting God’s way. **Which of the 3 temptations of Jesus and/or their parallel to modern Christians have you experienced?**
3. Jesus will go on to do miracles that inspire faith in some of the onlookers. **How is that different** from what Satan suggests in the wilderness?
4. Look at **Hebrews 4.15-16**. What does this reveal about Jesus and our life with him?
5. What else can we **pause and pray** for right now?

ANNOUNCEMENT: Sign up for our **Lent Retreat** on Sunday, March 8 [HERE](#)
