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Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. [2] After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. [3] The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

[4] Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"[5]

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. [6] "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"'He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

[7] Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"[8]

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. [9]

"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."[10]

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" [11] Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11

Notes

Tested in the Wilderness

MY NEXT STEP IS TO. . .

- ○ Trust Jesus and begin following Him as my Lord and Savior for the first time today.
- ○ Memorize Matthew 4:4.
- ○ Bring a test I'm facing to Jesus in prayer and ask Him to help me trust God in it.
- ○ Choose one step of obedience I can take this week in an area where my faith is being tested.
- ○ Get the most out of this Sunday's teaching by attending my Life Group this week.

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Discussion Questions - Week #8

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW
Thinking back to the weekend sermon, “Tested in the Wilderness,” summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

Do you plan to take any practical steps this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED
What’s a test, tryout, or driving exam you still remember? What made it memorable?

Can you think of a hard experience you would’ve avoided if you could? Looking back, how did it prepare you for challenges later in life?

DIGGING DEEPER
1. Genesis 22 begins by telling us that God tested Abraham. God had already promised that Abraham’s family would continue through Isaac (Genesis 21:12). Now Abraham has to respond to a command that seems to put that very promise in jeopardy.

Read Genesis 22:1–19.

What stands out to you as you read this story?

What made this such a difficult test for Abraham? How does God’s earlier promise about Isaac help us understand what was at stake?

In verses 5–8, what do Abraham’s words to his servants and to Isaac tell us about how he faced the test?

After Abraham obeys, God tells him what He will do through his family. What part does Abraham get to play in God’s story?

When someone you love is going through a season of testing, how can you help them respond faithfully?

Think of something you’re facing right now where you don’t know how things will turn out. What’s one thing you can do this week to trust God in that situation?

2. Peter writes to believers who are facing trials of many kinds. He reminds them of the living hope they have through Jesus’ resurrection and helps them see what their trials can reveal about their faith.

Read 1 Peter 1:1–9.

What reasons does Peter give these believers for hope? Which would be especially meaningful to you in the middle of a trial?

Peter speaks of joy and grief in the same sentence. What might it look like to experience both at the same time?

In verses 6–7, Peter uses the image of gold refined by fire. What does that image help us understand about what trials can reveal about our faith?

Can you remember a time when someone helped you hold on to hope during a hard season? What did they say or do that helped?

Peter says these believers love Jesus even though they’ve never seen Him. What does loving Jesus look like when life is hard?

What’s weighing on you right now? How might the hope you have because Jesus rose from the dead change the way you face it this week?

FOR PRACTICE
When Jesus was tested in the wilderness, He drew on words from Scripture that He had already taken to heart. This week, choose a verse from one of the passages we looked at that speaks to something you’re facing. Write it down and read it each morning. When you feel the pressure of that situation, come back to the verse and use it to pray about what you’re facing.

SHARE IT
Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS
Pray for the people of Iran and the surrounding region. Ask God to bring peace, comfort those who are afraid or grieving, and provide for families facing hardship. Pray that local believers would draw strength from Christ and find ways to share His hope as they care for their neighbors.