

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / NOVEMBER 12

TO APPLY—NOT REHASH—THE SERMON

Read

Read **Matthew 3:13–4:6** and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “Satan is challenging Jesus to do something to prove he is what God just declared him to be.”
- “At the root of Satan’s temptations is the question of who you are—what makes you, you—and how God feels about you.”
- Satan uses the snares of circumstances, comparison, competition, and condemnation to tempt us to question God.
- “The difference between the Holy Spirit and the demonic is Satan uses what you did to make you question the love and acceptance of God; the Holy Spirit uses the assurance of the love of God to redeem and rebuild what you did.”
- “God’s acceptance is the power that liberates you from sin, not the reward for having liberated yourself.”

Group Discussion

1. Which one of Satan’s four snares do you encounter most in your life, and how can Scripture help you combat it?
2. What can we do to remind ourselves of our identity in Christ, both daily and when we face accusations or temptations?
3. In what ways does Satan’s temptation of Jesus mirror the experiences of Israel in the Old Testament? What does this teach us about Jesus?
4. How are you tempted to build your identity on your performance and circumstances? What are ways our small group can encourage one another in finding our true identity in Christ?

WEEKLY RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Reflect:** Satan tempts Jesus to use his divinity to serve himself, but Jesus resists him. Reflect on Christ’s willingness to suffer and not take the easy way out (Philippians 2:6–8).
- Respond:** Consider Matthew 4:4. What would it look like for you to be sustained by God’s Word?
- Reach:** Ask God to reveal those around you who need to hear about Christ’s willingness to take our place on the cross.

PRAYER

- Ask God for the discernment to recognize and resist the snares of Satan.
- Pray for the wisdom to see ourselves as God sees us—loved and redeemed—and for the courage to live out this identity in our daily lives.