

Small Group Guide

Week of April 13, 2025



Icebreaker



- What's the most ridiculous thing you've ever been "tempted" to buy online?
- What's your go-to comfort food or guilty pleasure snack?



Discussion Questions



- The message emphasized, "This is personal." What makes the topic of temptation feel personal to you?
- Read Matthew 4:1–11. What stands out to you most in Jesus' experience with temptation?
- The sermon defined temptation as an invitation to embrace self-interest. Can you identify a time where this felt true for you?
- Which of the three temptations in the passage feels most relevant to you:
 - Meeting a legitimate need the wrong way
 - Using others for personal gain
 - Prioritizing power/influence or entitlement
- What are some things you've chased that were counterfeits of something good God intended?
- How does it change your perspective to realize temptation itself is not a sin, but a setup?
- What's a "quick fix" in life you're tempted to take instead of trusting God's timing or way?
- Have you ever tried to "use" God, treating Him like a vending machine or magic formula? What led to that moment?
- What's one way you've seen power or success become a substitute for true worship in today's culture—or in your own heart?
- The message said: "Don't just run from temptation—run to Jesus." What does that look like practically for you?



Thought for the Group



This week we kicked off our Breakthrough series by looking at how Jesus dealt with temptation in Matthew 4. Right after His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness—not by accident, but on purpose—to face the devil’s schemes. This wasn’t just a random test; it was a divine showdown that shows us how to find breakthrough in our own battles.

Jesus faced three major temptations:

1. Quick Fix – Meeting a real need (hunger) in the wrong way.
2. Manipulating God – Trying to force God to act for personal gain.
3. Shortcut to Power – Trading worship and obedience for immediate influence.

Each of these temptations targeted a real human weakness, yet Jesus didn’t give in. He stood firm by knowing God’s Word, trusting His Father, and staying rooted in His identity.

Here’s the big idea: Temptation isn’t just a moment of weakness—it’s a setup to either trust ourselves or trust Jesus.

Jesus didn’t just model a way out—He made a way through. He fought the fight we couldn’t win on our own. This isn’t just about quoting the Word—it’s about trusting the Word made flesh: Jesus. So when you’re tired, stressed, or stretched thin—don’t just try harder. Run to Him. Because the path to breakthrough doesn’t start with stronger willpower. It starts with a deeper relationship.



Next Steps



- Take inventory of one area in your life where you're settling for a quick fix (emotionally, physically, or spiritually). Write it down. Then ask, What is God’s better way in this area? Choose one small step to shift from self-reliance to God-dependence.
- Temptation grows in silence. Whether it’s a trusted friend, mentor, or someone in your group, let someone in. Share one struggle you're currently facing where you feel tempted or worn down. Invite them to check in with you this week.