



I. Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing? How was your Mardi Gras break? Did you attend Ash Wednesday service? What was your takeaway?

V. Prayer Requests

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

II. Scripture

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. **-Luke 4:1-13**

IV. Challenge

Use your talents to serve others this week.

III. Discussion Questions

- Jesus was tempted to use his power for his own benefit but chose obedience and service instead. In what ways are we tempted to use our own power—whether in relationships, work, or influence—for ourselves rather than for others?
- We all have power through our time, talents, resources, and influence. How can we use what we have to serve others in meaningful ways?
- The world tells us that success is about control, wealth, and status. How does Jesus' example challenge that? What are some things we could do to follow his example more closely?

Quotes

Robert G. Ingersoll – "Nearly all men can stand adversity. But if you really want to test a man's character, give him power."

MLK, Jr. — "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

Did You Know?

Walter Wink was a biblical scholar and theologian best known for his work on power, systems of oppression, and nonviolent resistance. In his groundbreaking trilogy on "The Powers," Wink reinterpreted biblical teachings on spiritual warfare, arguing that the "powers and principalities" mentioned in scripture are not just supernatural forces but also the human institutions, ideologies, and social systems that shape our world.

Wink believed that Jesus' resistance to temptation in the wilderness was not just about personal self-control but about rejecting corrupt forms of power—economic (turning stones into bread), political (ruling the kingdoms of the world), and religious (performing miracles for self-glorification). He argued that Jesus' response to these temptations models how Christians are called to engage with power: not by domination or self-interest, but through love, humility, and service.