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# Matthew Chapter 4

## 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Name one temptation that you struggle with. Why do you think that giving in to this temptation is wrong? What do you think makes it so tempting? How do you feel when you fall for this temptation?

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- b. Name a good activity that you enjoy engaging in. Why do you think this activity is good? Why do you think you enjoy it so much? How does it make you feel when you are involved in this activity?

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## 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

This chapter starts out by saying that it was the Spirit that led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted. How do you feel about that? Do you think it was cruel of God to send the Holy Spirit to do such a thing? Did anything good come from the temptations in the wilderness? Who was hurt by this experience? Who benefited from this experience?

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Can you identify any times when you think God may have allowed you to be tempted? Do you think this temptation helped or hurt you? Why/why not?

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The first two temptations, according to Matthew, was in regards to Jesus' identity. Satan said, "if" you are the Son of God... Why do you think Satan said, "if"? After 40 days of fasting Jesus must have been terribly worn down, exhausted, and ready for this ordeal to be over. He had surely experienced some tremendous communion with God but now His body was breaking down from the experience and He may have been getting weak. Satan wanted to tempt Jesus to use His supernatural powers for Himself rather than others here and he hinged it on Jesus' relationship with His Father. The temptation was essentially: "If you are God, stop trusting in your Father to take care of you and take things into your own hands. Show that YOU have power and satisfy your hunger yourself."

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Why do you think it would have been wrong for Jesus to satisfy His own hunger in this situation? Can you think of a time in scripture where Jesus used His supernatural abilities for Himself?

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Have you ever been tempted to take things into your own hands rather than trust in Jesus to show you the way? How did the situation turn out? What do you wish you had done differently?

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Why do you think it is better to wait for Jesus to guide you rather than using your own judgment?

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How do you know when to wait for God versus when to take decisive action?

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### 3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

**Choose one or two:**

- a. Have a discussion with your small group and/or a spiritual adult that you know to think of ways that you can learn to trust in Jesus more and to develop more patience while waiting for His guidance.
- b. Just like Jesus spent lots of time with His Father before He was tempted, try to think of ways that you can spend more time with Jesus so that you can be prepared for temptation as well.

### 4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

In your small group, and individually, pray for people that you know are going through trying times right now. Pray that they will spend time with Jesus and be able to hear His guiding voice clearly.

Next pray for your personal relationship with Jesus. Pray that you will remember to spend more time with Him so that you can recognize His voice and follow His guidance more easily.