

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

We Are the Church - Week 4



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- Read the story of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-10 - back). Jesus faced three types of temptation (physical temptation, hero temptation, and power temptation) – where do those temptations come up for us today? In your work or family, have you experienced times when something distracted you from *the main thing*? What's it like to get back on course?
- Why is "people pleasing" so tempting to fall into? And how does it affect us and those around us? When we are tempted by our significance, how can we be reminded that our significance comes from God?
- Read Philippians 2:6-8 (back). Jesus didn't grab power, he *gave* power. What does that mean for us?
- In your experience, which of these things most commonly becomes "the main thing" rather than Jesus within the life of the church? *The building, a denomination, behavior, how people dress, politics, the pastor, music, worship times, convenience, my own preferences, money, rules, events, methods – what else?*
- If we're not leading people to church, but leading people to *Jesus*, what might we need to change in our approach? What influence would that have on you? On others?

PRAY

God of grace, through love and compassion, you taught us how to be the church. Show us how to lead all people to faith in you, that all may know your love, your light and your peace. Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

MATTHEW 4:1-10

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] 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.’”

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8

6 Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,

8 he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

