

REVIEW

What might it look like for someone to think they're following Jesus but actually aren't?

What made Jesus's baptism unique? How did God reveal Himself?

What happens when you rely on yourself instead of God? How does it negatively affect your thoughts, actions, and relationships? Why do we tend to rely on ourselves instead of God? How might an incorrect view of God influence whom we choose to depend on?

In your experience, how has your understanding of Jesus influenced your Christian walk?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Matthew 4:1–11. How does the devil tempt Jesus in verse 3? How does Satan put Jesus's identity into question? Why would turning stones into bread be a bad thing? How would Jesus be disobeying God?

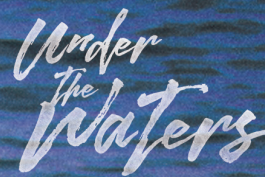
When is it tempting to take your needs into your own hands, instead of relying on God? What happens when you try to control your life on your own?

How does the devil tempt Jesus in verses 5 and 6? How did he use Scripture to try to persuade Jesus? Why would Satan tempt Jesus to jump off the temple? How does pride play into this temptation?

How have you been tempted to show off, boast, or promote yourself? Why do you think it's tempting to boast about ourselves? In what ways do you see pride at work in you? How does it affect your attitude toward yourself, others, and God?

What's the final temptation in verses 8 and 9? How is Satan's temptation the easy way out?

HANDOUT



When have you been tempted to take a shortcut—maybe in work, parenting, schooling, or relationships? How did the situation play out?

What are some personal, relational, or spiritual consequences to taking the easy way out? Have you experienced any of these? If so, how did they affect you?

How has this passage brought your sin to light? What's one sin struggle you see in yourself the most?

Matthew 4:12–17. Who is in the darkness that verse 16 alludes to? Who is the light? What is Jesus's message, according to verse 17?

What does it mean to repent? What are some ways you practice repentance?

How did Jesus combat Satan? What verses are the most helpful to you when fighting temptation? Do you have those verses memorized? If so, what methods did you use to memorize them? What are some other ways to keep Scripture at the forefront of your mind?

Matthew 3:11. What will Jesus baptize with? How does knowing you have the Holy Spirit influence the way you view temptation, sin, and repentance?

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Read: Read chapters 1 and 2 from Leslie's book *Crossing the Waters*.

Pray: Maybe this session brought a sin to light. Ask God to show you the next steps in turning away from that sin.

Memorize: Pick a few verses that help you fight temptation—maybe even some from this session. Commit them to memory this week.

Confess: Sit down with a trusted Christian friend this week to confess sin. Prayerfully consider holding each other accountable by following up, praying, and asking intentional questions.

Study: This session focused on the beginning of Jesus's ministry. This week, study the first two chapters of Luke to learn about Jesus's birth and childhood. Then read chapters three and four to review the material from this lesson.