

Read and Pray Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What culinary temptation do you have trouble resisting?
2. Is making the decision to buy something difficult for you?

Read the following passages: Matthew 4:1-11.

When Satan came to Jesus in the wilderness, he attempted to use Jesus' identity as a wedge to separate him from the Father. "The Son of God shouldn't be starving. What Father would want that for his son? No, the Father should rescue you, even if you threw yourself off the top of the Temple. If you're the Son of God, you should be reigning right now, and I can give that to you." Satan's offer of all the splendor this world has to offer had greater appeal because people in Jesus' culture (just like people in our culture) valued power and affluence. And surely Satan's offer was more tempting since he came to Jesus in the middle of his hunger, not in the middle of his comfort. But Jesus looked to the Scriptures to inform his identity, evaluate the culture, and give voice to his pain.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What role did the Scriptures play in Jesus' life and ministry? (For a few examples, see Luke 4:16-21, 24-27; 10:25-28; 18:31-34; Matthew 5:17-18; 19:3-6; 27:45-46.) Why do you think Jesus gave such a place to the Scriptures in his life? How should this inform the place we give to the Scriptures in our lives?
2. What are some ways we experience spiritual conflict in our lives? How can the Scriptures help us?
3. To what extent are the Scriptures informing your identity? Explain. What are some of the other main influences on the way you view yourself?
4. What is one way you feel the Scriptures have led you to be counter-cultural? Explain. Are there any other ways you feel the Scriptures are challenging you to change the way you are living?
5. How do you typically respond to painful seasons or experiences in your life? How can the Scriptures help us navigate our pain?
6. Do you have a plan for reading the Bible? Explain.
7. Do you have any resources you use to help you understand the Bible?
8. Have you made the commitment to become a Sixer? If not, what is standing in the way?

If you're ready to take the step of becoming a Sixer, you can do it here: bit.ly/fcsixer

Pray