



Week beginning February 22nd

## Stretching through Lent: Testing times

### Opening Questions

- The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday. How are you planning to mark this time in your daily life this year?
- People sometimes say that they are going through a 'wilderness time' in their life. What do you think makes it a wilderness time?

### Getting into the text

#### Read Matthew 4:1-11

- What made Jesus especially vulnerable as he spent time in the desert?
- What do you think the devil was aiming to do when he tempted Jesus?
- He tempted Jesus three times. Each temptation tested one of Jesus' core values. What were they?
- How did Jesus respond to the temptations?

- What impact do you think this time of testing had on Jesus? How do you think it might have helped his future ministry?

### Applying the Bible to your life

- What can you learn from this passage about resisting the voice of the devil when he tries to tempt you to turn away from Jesus' teaching?
- Are you able to share any wilderness times in your life which were hard when they happened, but which helped your faith grow stronger?
- Can you think of any Bible verses which you could write out or learn which might help you when your faith is being tested in 'wilderness times'?

### Something to pray about

Jesus said, '**Stand firm, and you will win life.**' (Luke 21:19)

- Pray for your journey through Lent, asking God to help you grow deeper and stronger in your faith.
- Pray for those who are going through challenging times, that they would stay strong and sense God's presence with them.
- Pray for anyone you know who has been tempted along the wrong paths, asking God to draw them back to himself.