



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.