



## Series: Follow

### Week 1: Following Jesus into the Wilderness

**Big Idea:** Following Jesus means trusting God's leading even when obedience takes us into testing rather than comfort.

**Opening Question (Icebreaker)** When you think of the word wilderness, what comes to mind – a place, a season, a feeling? Have you ever experienced a “mountaintop moment” that was quickly followed by something difficult?

Read Matthew 4:1–11 aloud as a group.

1. The Spirit Leads into the Wilderness
  - What stands out to you about the fact that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness?
  - Why do we often assume that being led by God means being led into comfort or blessing?
  - How does this passage challenge that assumption?
2. The Wilderness Reveals What We Trust
  - What do you notice about the nature of the three temptations?
  - Which of the three temptations do you relate to most right now:
    - Turning stones to bread (meeting legitimate needs in the wrong way)?
    - Testing God (forcing proof or control)?
    - Taking a shortcut to power or success?
  - Why do you think temptation often intensifies after spiritual highs?
3. “It Is Written” – Anchored in the Word
  - Why do you think Jesus responded with Scripture instead of argument or emotion?
  - What does this show us about the role of God's Word in spiritual battle?
  - How practically can we anchor ourselves in Scripture during our own wilderness seasons?
4. Lent: Creating Space to Trust
  - What is the difference between simply giving something up and intentionally seeking God?
  - What might God be inviting you to release this season in order to trust Him more fully?
  - How can this group support one another during this Lenten journey?

Take-Home Challenge This week:

1. Choose one intentional Lenten practice (fasting, prayer, Scripture reading, etc.).
2. Identify one area of your life that feels like a wilderness.
3. Find one Scripture to anchor yourself in that area — your own “It is written.”

Close with Prayer