

Words to Live By

2026-01-11 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 1

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

The first temptation opens with two sneaky words: if you are. Satan questioned Jesus' identity right after the Father had said, this is my beloved Son. Pastor Matt said the easiest way to tempt anyone is to make them question who they are. And the devil does not only push bad things. He offers right things at the wrong time, in the wrong way, which is really a grab for control. Jesus answered with Deuteronomy: man does not live on bread alone, but on every word from God's mouth. Only what God says can actually feed a life.

To get started

- What is a good idea you have had at completely the wrong moment?

Looking back at the message

The identity question is the sharpest part. Start there.

- 1 Pastor Matt said the easiest way to tempt him is to make him question who he is. How does that work on you?
- 2 Pastor Matt said the devil does not only push wrong things. He offers right things at the wrong time and in the wrong way. Where have you seen that pattern?
- 3 James describes a man who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets his own face. What truth about yourself do you forget fastest? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 3:17 and 4:1-4 together. Notice the two words at the start of verse 3.

- 4 Read Matthew 4:3. What are the first two words of the temptation, and what do they do to what God just said in 3:17?
- 5 Jesus is starving and could make bread. What exactly is wrong with the suggestion?
- 6 Jesus answers by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. What does that verse say a person actually lives on?
- 7 Read John 1:1 and 1:14. How do those verses connect to what Jesus says here about God's word? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

'Stones into bread' is the image to keep returning to.

- 8 Pastor Matt said we ask phones, careers, and even our kids to be bread for us. What have you asked to feed you that never could?
- 9 What have you been trying to control because waiting felt worse?
- 10 When you doubt yourself, whose voice does it usually sound like?
- 11 What has God said about you that you have trouble holding onto? OPTIONAL

The group together

A group can reflect back what someone cannot hear themselves.

- 12 How can this group remind someone who they are when they cannot say it about themselves?
- 13 What would it look like to help each other with timing, not just with decisions?
- 14 What is something you would want this group to keep telling you? OPTIONAL

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What have you been asking to feed you that was never meant to, and what would letting it go involve?

You might pray about

- For those whose sense of who they are is under pressure right now
- For patience with timing rather than seizing control
- For the things we have quietly asked to sustain us
- For God's word to carry more weight than any other voice