



LAKE GROVE

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SMALL GROUP SERMON GUIDE

Sermon Date: **November 20, 2022**

Scripture Text: **Luke 4:1-13**

Sermon Title and Preacher:

Firm Foundation: The Origin Story of Jesus (11 of 11)

“Getting the Wilderness Right” – Pastor Mark McIlraith

DISCUSSION

This is a general guide. Feel free to allow discussion to go where it needs to.

Open with Prayer

- How was your week? Any follow-up insights from last week’s discussion?
- Read the Scripture Text
- What are your general thoughts, impressions, and takeaways from Sunday’s sermon?
- Temptation is often tempting because it seems there’s something good in it that one hopes for. When you think of temptation, what first comes to mind? What about that temptation could be seen as good?
- CS Lewis wrote:
“A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is.... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would



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have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it; and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means – the only complete realist” (Mere Christianity, pp. 124-125).

Would you agree or disagree with this assessment? Why? Would you say you have experienced great temptations (no requirement to divulge specifics)? What about handling small temptations could be difficult (e.g., going a few miles over the speed limit because you are running late)?

- We may try our best, but we cannot be perfectly sinless and free of temptation, nor do we have the natural power to resist every temptation. If Jesus were merely our model for resisting temptation, we would be sunk and defeated. Instead, Jesus is our Savior. Since this is true, what could be your tact when confronted with temptation? In other words, how can Jesus as our Savior (rather than our model) help you in times of temptation?
- As you conclude your time, what insights will you walk away with?

Close with Prayer (allow for prayer requests as appropriate)