**Life Group Discussion Guide**

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

*The Desert Showdown*

October 24, 2021

**Reading** Matthew 4:1-11

**Intro:**

1. If you ever go camping, do you have a funny “horror” story of your time in the wilderness?

2. What is an example of something that looked easy, but was incredibly hard in your own life?

3. Do you agree or disagree that life gets harder when you are a Christian? Why or why not?

**Read Matt 4:1-11. Pray and answer the following questions**:

1. How do you see the baptism of Jesus (especially the declaration of his sonship) and his temptation in the wilderness linked? In what way is the Holy Spirit involved in both?

2. What is temptation? How would you describe it simply to a child or someone who isn’t a Christian?

3. What is a test? How would you describe it simply to a child or someone who isn’t a Christian?

4. Is being tempted a sin?

5. In what way was the temptation in the wilderness a test of Jesus’ vocation? How is it a test of our vocations as Christians?

6. How does Jesus’ time of testing compare to that of Israel in the wilderness (you may wish to have a look at Deuteronomy 8:5)?

7. Reading verses 3-9 again, identify as a group the three key ways in which the devil tempted Jesus. What is at the heart of each of these temptations?

8. How do we see the same type of temptations manifest in our lives?

9. Identify as a group how Jesus responded to each of the temptations. Identify and discuss each of the Scriptures that he quotes to the devil.

**Application**

1. How can we confront temptation?

2. How might we better equip ourselves with the Word of God so that we are ready to respond in the face of temptation?