

# 100 days with Jesus

Group Study No: 3

Matthew 4:1-11

## Introduction

Living our busy lives, the best that many of us can manage are brief God gaps. A quick few minutes between a shower and breakfast, a thought and prayer whilst driving somewhere else or a hurried reading and prayer before sleep. Jesus lived a different way. He made space for God, or to put it better, space for himself to be with God.

Leaving the decisive launching experience of his baptism, he is about to begin his great world changing ministry; so much to do, so little time to do it. But before beginning, or rather, as a way of beginning, Jesus goes off alone into the wilderness, 'the empty lands'

where he spends forty days, a time just for himself and God.

## Discussion

1. If you were to mark your present prayer life out of ten, how many marks would you give yourself?
2. Why do you think Jesus and others fast? Have you ever had a go?
3. In this passage the Devil, the Tempter, is portrayed like a physical person who appears before Jesus. How else could he be portrayed?
4. V3-4 What is the essence of this first temptation? How could we apply the same temptation to our own Christian life?
5. V5-7 What is the essence of this second temptation? How could we apply the same temptation to our own Christian life?
6. V8-10 What is the essence of this third temptation? How could we apply the same temptation to our own Christian life?

7. V11 It appears that Jesus has this time of concentrated temptation and then it passes. Has this also been your experience in your Christian life, or do you find yourself being tempted most of the time?

8. What have you discovered to be the best ways to avoid temptation?

## Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
Where is my wilderness?  
Whose is the tempting voice I hear?  
What is the temptation that draws me?  
Will you help me to overcome it?  
Amen.