

## KEEPING OUR FOCUS

### Matthew 4:1-11 // Jesus is Tempted

*This service is centered on Matthew 4:1-11, where Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. This story corresponds to the first Sunday in Lent. Here are some materials to help you create your own worship service.*

MAIN THEME: *How do we keep our focus on God, even when the going gets tough?*

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### CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- 🎵 **Out of the Depths/By Grace Alone**  
Text and Music: David L. Ward  
© 2005 Thousand Tongues  
(This whole CD is great for Lent. You can download the lead sheet, lyrics, and other materials for free on David's website [[www.thousandtongues.org](http://www.thousandtongues.org)])
- 🎵 **Kyrie Eleison "Lord, Have Mercy"** [Key of B minor]  
Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend  
© 2010 Gettymusic and ThankyouMusic
- 🎵 **10,000 Reasons** [Key of F/G]  
Text and Music: Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin  
© 2011 Thankyou Music, Said And Done Music , sixsteps, Music SHOUT! Publishing
- 🎵 **Man of Sorrows - What a Name** [Key of A/Bb]  
Text and Music: Philip P. Bliss  
© Public Domain
- 🎵 **Your Grace Finds Me** [Key of A/Bb]  
Text and Music: Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin  
© 2013 Said And Done Music // SHOUT! Music Publishing // sixsteps Music // Thankyou Music // worshiptogether.com songs

### CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Have two people read Matthew 4:1-11, one person acting as Jesus and the other person acting as the tempter. We've already created a version of this for you using the Common English Bible. See below.

#### Scripture Reading

*Matthew 4:1-11 // Jesus is Tempted*

**Reader 1:** A reading from Matthew 4:1-11: Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness.

**Reader 2:** Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread."

- Reader 3:** Jesus replied, “It’s written, People won’t live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.”
- Reader 2:** After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, “Since you are God’s Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won’t hit your foot on a stone.”
- Reader 3:** Jesus replied, “Again it’s written, Don’t test the Lord your God.”
- Reader 2:** Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, “I’ll give you all these if you bow down and worship me.”
- Reader 3:** Jesus responded, “Go away, Satan, because it’s written, You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.” The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.
- Reader 1:** This is the Word of the Lord.
- All:** Thanks be to God.

Check out videos on “Temptation” to supplement the reading above. We suggest using Worship House Media [[www.worshiphousemedia.com](http://www.worshiphousemedia.com)] as a resource. If you show a video on temptation, you’ll want to be sure you don’t use it to manipulate or induce guilt. Rather, emphasize the power we have in Christ’s example to overcome temptation – this is the good news of the Gospel.

## FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Create your own art. Sometimes we are able to keep our focus on Jesus, other times we aren’t. Place stations of rocks and Sharpie markers in the room. During a song or time of interactive prayer ask worshipers what causes them to take their focus off of God. Invite them to write that on the rocks. Once all worshipers are finished, ask them to bring all the rocks to the front of the room. Then, offer a prayer on behalf of the whole community, asking God to help us keep our focus on the example Jesus set before us.

## LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

The well-known theologian C.S. Lewis once said, *“I didn’t go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.”*

Sometimes, we aren’t honest enough about what a challenge it is to keep our focus on God. This Lent season, find a friend or a group of people with whom you can be honest. Do three things with this group: 1) talk about the things that distract you from God; 2) share what helps keep you focused on God; then, most importantly, 3) pray for one another.

Want to read more about a faith that isn’t always easy? Check out *Will You Follow Jesus Even If Your Life Doesn’t Get Any Better?* by Alastair Sterne posted with Relevant Magazine. [It’s where we found the C.S. Lewis quote!]

## MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

If you're using all worship services in this module, we suggest you add rocks this week. Not tiny rocks, but large landscaping rocks. You can put them on a table up front with materials from last week, and you can add some to the foot of the cross. See "Finding Art" for ways we suggest you add worshipers' personal touch to these rocks.

## WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Consider using this prayer to the Holy Spirit by fourth century church father, St. Augustine:

*"Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen."*

# SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

*Keeping Our Focus // Matthew 4:1-11 // Jesus is Tempted*

## WELCOME

Say hi to other worshipers and welcome them in the name of Christ

## WHAT IS LENT?

If Lent isn't common to your tradition, you might explain it at the end of the welcome and the beginning of worship.

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul (10,000 Reasons)*  
*Man of Sorrows - What a Name*

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

## SONG OF CONFESSION

*Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)*

*[Continue to play this song silently during the visual and written meditation.]*

## VISUAL // WRITTEN MEDITATION

Visual // We suggest a piece from the gallery of Julie Quinn, but it is up to you.

Written // "I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity." -C.S. Lewis

*[Project an image with the quote by C.S. Lewis underneath. We admit, it's a bit edgy, but sometimes edgy things convey truth the best. Allow worshipers to reflect on it during 1-2 minutes of silence. Bring worshipers out of silence with the refrain of the previous song: "Kyrie Eleison."]*

## RECEIVING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**One:** Righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

**All:** **By faith I have a deep-rooted assurance, created in me by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, that, out of sheer grace**

**earned for us by Christ, not only others, but I too, have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.**

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## SONG OF SURRENDER

*I Surrender All*

## READING SCRIPTURE TOGETHER

Matthew 4:1-11

## MESSAGE

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sometimes we are able to keep our focus on Jesus, other times we aren't. Place stations of rocks and Sharpie markers in the room or give each worshiper one of these. At the end of the message, ask worshipers what causes them to take their focus off God. Invite them to write that on a rock. Gather all the rocks at the front of the room in a pile. As worshipers complete this activity, your worship team might sing "Your Grace Finds Me."

When everyone has completed this activity, join in singing together "Your Grace Finds Me." Then, pray St. Augustine's prayer together.

## SONGS OF GRACE

*Your Grace Finds Me*  
*Amazing Grace*

## CLOSING PRAYER

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **BENEDICTION**

**One:** Go in peace to love and serve.

**All:** **With God's help, we will.**