



Ride or Die 1 – In the Valley of Temptation Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

"Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20

Remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

James 1:13-14

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ²For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

³During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

'People do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect you.

And they will hold you up with their hands

so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

⁷Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

⁸Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

¹⁰"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the Lord your God

and serve only him.'"

¹¹Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Matthew 4:1-11

Reflection Questions:

- Do you have someone that you've ever called your "ride or die?"
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the message, and being together with others as part of the church?
- Read Matthew 28:20. How does this promise from Jesus affect you? Have you experienced God's presence with you? How?
- In his message, Eddie took some time to define a few words: "sin" and "temptation." How would you explain the meaning of those words in your own words?
- Read this quote from the movie, *The Usual Suspects*: "The greatest trick the devil ever pulled is convincing the world he doesn't exist." Do you agree? Why?
- Read about Jesus' temptation in Matthew 4:1-11. Read it in several translations. If you're with others, take turns reading it out loud.
- What stands out to you about Jesus in this story? What do you notice about Satan?
- Eddie shared that "not every temptation is evil on its face...sometimes temptation is not only about WHAT, it's about WHY and HOW and WHEN." What are some examples that come to mind when you hear that?
- There are three takeaways from Jesus' temptation that Eddie shared:
 - rather than test your capacity, trust God's resources
 - rather than test God's patience, trust God's timing
 - rather than test God's grace, trust God's commandsWhich one do you need to hold onto this week?
- Do you sense God calling you to do anything in response to this message?

Looking for some ways to grow and be stretched spiritually? Check out our highlighted resources at www.wschurch.org/resources. These resources can be purchased using the links or are available for a small donation at the Next Steps area on Sunday mornings.