**The Spirit and the Wilderness**

**The Word**

Read together Matthew 3:16-4:11

**The Big Idea**

The Spirit sometimes leads God’s people into wilderness seasons because there are things that can be formed in us that are only formed in the wilderness. Through wilderness times, we can learn the basic postures of dependence, trust, and worship.

**Questions for Reflection**

1. What questions or issues does Matthew 4:1 raise for you in terms of the Spirit leading Jesus (and us?) into experiences of challenge and trial?

2. What is one idea from Sunday’s message that helped you better understand or relate to the temptations Jesus experienced in the wilderness?

3. Sunday’s message focused on how the Spirit can use wilderness seasons to teach us new things and shape us in new ways. What is one thing you see the Spirit teaching you through these challenging weeks?

4. On Sunday we also talked about the biblical posture of lament. What’s your reaction to the idea of lament as a faithful response to God? What role has lament played or been allowed to play in the Christian circles you’ve been a part of over the years?