



Sermon Discussion Questions: Matthew 3-4

Matthew 3:1-12

- 1) Share about an important announcement you had to make. What were the circumstances? How'd you feel going into it? How'd it go?
- 2) John the Baptist came announcing that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. What did he mean? How did he call the people to respond?
- 3) When the Pharisees and Sadducees came for baptism, John had some hard words for them. What was his message? How might that warning relate to us?
- 4) Though John was a great prophet, he did not feel worthy to even carry Jesus' sandals. What does that reveal about his character? How might we learn from and imitate him?
- 5) John prepared the way for people to meet Jesus. Who are people you would like to meet Jesus? How might you prepare the way for them to meet Him? How might your group pray for you in that endeavor?

Matthew 3:13-17

- 1) Share about your baptism. What was significant or memorable about it?
[For those who have not been baptized, share what is keeping you from taking that step and how your group might pray for you to follow Jesus in this way.]
- 2) Although Jesus needed no repentance, why did He insist on being baptized?
- 3) Discuss what happened at Jesus' baptism. How does this reflect the nature of God? Spend some time praising Him.
- 4) For those who are believers, all that is Christ's is ours. This includes the declaration: "You are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased." How does that statement resonate (or not) with you? How might God be inviting you to live into that reality more?
- 5) Spend some time as a group praying for one another to know and experience the love of the Father the way Jesus did. Consider using Psalm 16:8-11 as a guide for your prayers.

Matthew 4:1-11

- 1) Share about a time you faced great temptation. What happened?
- 2) Right after Jesus began his public ministry, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted. Why do you think this was significant?
- 3) Jesus faced 3 temptations. What were they? How did He resist?
- 4) How might we apply this story to our own lives when we face temptation?
Consider Jesus as our example (the one who we follow), Jesus as our high priest (the one who understands), and Jesus as our perfect righteousness (the one who never fails).
- 5) What is a particular way you're being tempted right now? How can you look to Jesus and His Word to help you? How might you ask for God to comfort you? (As your answer, consider how the angels may have ministered to Jesus.) Spend some time as a group praying for one another.

Matthew 4:12-17

- 1) Share about a time you received difficult news. What was the situation? How did you respond?
- 2) After Jesus heard about John being arrested, why do you think He withdrew? What might we learn from His example?
- 3) Jesus' home base of public ministry was Capernaum. Why do you think this was significant?
- 4) Jesus came to fulfill what Isaiah prophesied: "the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light...and on them a light has dawned." Take some time to reflect on how Jesus' light has shined.
- 5) Who is currently dwelling in darkness that you'd like for the light of Jesus to shine upon? How might you share Jesus with them? Spend some time as a group praying for those currently in darkness and for boldness to share the good news.

Matthew 4:18-25

- 1) Share about how the Lord called you to follow Him. What were the circumstances? How did you experience this calling?
- 2) What do you notice about Jesus calling His disciples in this passage? How is it similar/different from your calling?
- 3) Jesus' call was first to follow Him—to a relationship, not just to a ministry. How might He be calling you to follow Him right now?
- 4) Describe Jesus' ministry. Take some time to imagine what it must have been like for the kingdom of heaven to break through.
- 5) How would you like for the kingdom of heaven to break through in your family, your neighborhood, your workplace, etc.? How might you pray for and pursue it?