

# Gathering Guide

## for Communities and Friends

### *The Temptation of Christ, Part 3*

2/17/19

#### Where We Are In The Bible

We continue with the temptation of Jesus in Matthew, chapter 4, with the third and final temptation. It can be found in verse 8. Once again Satan takes Jesus to a very high place, this time on top of a “very high mountain.” It’s unclear whether Satan is presenting a vision (like the Ghost of Christmas Past) or if the high place could show many surrounding kingdoms. Regardless, the vantage is one that a mere man would not be able to have. Satan is flexing his own muscle to show what he can offer.

#### Lean In

- Describe some of your ambitions. Why do you want them? What are you doing to get them?
- Reflect and discuss the nature of the third temptation. Consider the damage caused by flawed and corrupt world leaders and the good that could come of Jesus accepting this temptation.
- Good things aren’t necessarily God things. What are some examples of answered prayers that could come at the benefit of some but the harm of others?
- Read Philippians 1:12-18. What’s the problem Paul is dealing with? How does he respond to it?

#### The Big Idea

Not all good things that we want are the God things He has planned for us. And even the right things done the wrong way or at the wrong time can make it all wrong. Indeed, our ambitions are fragile desires that can easily do damage. Jesus offers an alternative path, to worship and serve the Lord only. Worship douses the burning desire of self-ambition.

#### Where To?

- What is worship to you? What do you expect when you enter into a worship space? What are your preferences?
- What does worship look like beyond the Sunday morning experience?
- What are some practical steps you could take to replace ambitions with a more worshipful life?

#### Prayer Focus

Holy and Majestic God, we praise you for who you are, what you have done, and what you continue to do. Forgive us for our selfish ambitions and desires that are not of you. Truly, God, your ways are not our ways and your thoughts are not our thoughts! Let us worship you at all times and in all places. Let praise flow out of us unexpectedly. And when we worship, let us surrender ourselves. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

