

Matthew chapter 2 (Suffering Well) – Romans 8:37-39
Matthew chapter 3 (Baptism/Identity) – Matthew 3: 13-17
Matthew chapter 4 (Temptation) – Hebrews 4: 14-16

Ice Breaker Idea: Share a goal that you have set for 2024

Questions:

Matthew 2 – Suffering Well

1. Society misleads us to believe that suffering in life is abnormal. How have you seen this? Why is this harmful? How does an understanding that suffering WILL happen in the Christian life alter your perspective?
2. Read Romans 8:37-39 – What does it mean to you to be “more than conquerors”?

Matthew 3 – Baptism/Identity

3. What does it mean to ‘find your identity in something’? In what things are you often tempted to find your identity in?
4. Baptism is a gift from God, something He does for us (not something that we do for Him). What does this mean? Why is this important?

Matthew 4 - Temptation

5. Read 1 John 2: 15-17. Do you agree that these 3 categories encompass all the temptations that come upon us? Why or Why Not?
6. We discussed the difference between ‘testing’ and ‘temptation’. Share your thoughts on the differences between these? How might you approach these things differently?

“Digging Deeper”

Read Luke 5:30-32 & Matthew 3: 1-2

John the Baptizer and Jesus both preached a message of repentance. What is repentance? Why is it so essential to the Christian life?

Read James 1: 2-3

What is the ultimate result of trial/suffering? Why is it to be rejoiced in?