

## Opening Prayer

*Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan:  
Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us,  
let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## Gathering Question

Group members take turns answering the gathering question, designed to help folks get to know each other better in classic ice-breaker fashion. Each one shares briefly before the group takes up the primary conversation for this particular time together.

*Growing up, we all took tests in school. Since then, when have you voluntarily or routinely found yourself willing to be tested?*

## Communal Reading: Luke 4:1–2, 12–13

*After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil... Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.*

## Sharing and Conversation

Sharing among the group unfolds organically, prompted by conversation starters for each session and guided by generous listening so that all members of the group have opportunity to participate.

*When might the devil perceive an opportune time to test you?*

## Closing Prayer

Each gathering concludes with a time of prayer. Leadership roles are shared on a volunteer basis among group participants.

Adapted from Douglas Kaine McKelvey's *Every Moment Holy, Volume I* (Nashville: Rabbit Room Press, 2017).

*One: Oh Christ, we are here again, tested and tempted to lean on our own strength.*

*All: Given a choice between the painless path or the hard road of the cross,*

*One: may we choose to follow you, for there is nowhere apart from your presence*

*All: where your peace that passes human understanding fills us,*

*One: nor do we know true satisfaction, apart from your reclamation of our hearts.*

*All: Lead us then, oh Christ, in every moment*

*One: to take up those unmistakably steady, faithful choices*

*All: along the path of selfless service, where you await us with outstretched arms.*

*One: May we know the joy of being welcomed into your embrace*

*All: where your loving delight pronounces, "Well done." Amen.*