

WITNESS – Reaching out to others
(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)

Giving Thanks to God

What does being a follower of Jesus mean to you? Thank God.

Praying for one another

Share what you believe God would have you do for you to be a more Christ like follower and then pray for the person on your right.

Praying for our community

How would Hungerford be different if everyone was a follower of Jesus? Pray for our community to be more Christ-like.

MATTHEW

2

Matthew 4.1-25

The Beginning of the Kingdom

Purpose: To catch the excitement of being invited to join Jesus' compassionate and powerful kingdom. After the people have waited over a thousand years, the Messiah finally comes. It would be hard to grasp the excitement and anticipation present at the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

WELCOME – Breaking the ice *(Aim for 10 minutes)*

All of us have experienced something new—starting a new job, going to a new school, moving to a new community. What did it feel like?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord *(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)*

THE EXAMEN

1. **Become aware of God's presence** - take some time to remember that God is present with us in our everyday lives. He has been near to you and with you throughout the events of your day. Invite the Holy Spirit.
2. **Review the day with gratitude** - what are you thankful for? What did you receive from others? What did you give to others?
3. **Pay attention to your emotions** - St. Ignatius emphasised how our emotions can point to the presence of God. Reflect upon how you felt throughout your day. What might God be saying to you through these emotions?
4. **Choose one thing from the day and pray for it**

WORD – Applying the truth
(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

Is it time yet?” “How much longer?” Those are the questions children ask repeatedly as Christmas approaches. It's hard on them (and their parents) to wait. But when Christmas day comes, it's full of fun and surprises. After weeks of waiting, we all get to open our new gifts. The beginning of Jesus' ministry was like the coming of Christmas. After a long wait, the wrappings came off and the world got to see God's greatest gift.

1. Read Matthew 4. The prerequisite for Jesus' ministry was his ability to resist temptation. What can we discover about Jesus from his encounter with Satan (vv. 1–11)?

2. Look specifically at each temptation (vv. 3–4, 5–7, 8–10). What was Satan trying to accomplish by each of them?

3. What can we learn about temptation and how to resist it from Jesus' example?

4. Verses 12–17 describe the transition from testing to ministry. What do they tell us about Jesus' coming ministry?

5. How does Jesus demonstrate his message, “The kingdom of heaven is near,” in verses 18–25?

6. One of Jesus' first functions as heavenly King is calling disciples. From verses 18–22 develop a brief definition of discipleship.

7. Discipleship for the first disciples meant leaving job and family and following Jesus wherever he went. How has discipleship affected your life?

8. Imagine the excitement of the first disciples as they watched Jesus healing and teaching among the crowds. Put yourself in their place and describe how you would feel.

9. How does this chapter motivate you to follow Jesus and to be a “fisher of men”?

*From Matthew: Being Discipled by Jesus by Stephen & Jacalyn Eyre.
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