GROUPS
Following Jesus Together

40: The Place Where Transformation Happens

Scripture: Matthew 3:13–4:11

Big Idea: The faithful Son is forming a people who follow his way of surrender.

Questions for Connection (*Use these to help start conversations.)*

1. If you're a sports fan, what's the most irrational thing you've ever done because you thought it might help your team win? (Changed seats? Turned off the TV? Wear the same shirt?)
2. As you've traveled, what's the worst shortcut you've taken that didn't work out?

Have someone pray and invite the Spirit to guide your discussion as you start.

Read Matthew 3:13–4:11

1. Israel spent forty years in the wilderness and repeatedly struggled to trust God. Jesus enters the wilderness for forty days and remains faithful. How does knowing Jesus remained faithful where God's people failed change the way we think about our own struggles to follow him?

2. Jesus was hungry (4:2), and his need was real. Why does trusting God sometimes become harder when what we want or need isn't necessarily wrong? What are some things we convince ourselves we absolutely need in order to be okay?

3. What happens to our faith when we blur "God is good" with "God will give me the outcome I'm hoping for"? Can you trust God and still deeply want a particular outcome? What has that tension looked like for you?

4. How can we recognize when our desire for a particular outcome has become more important than our desire to follow Jesus?

5. Satan offers Jesus a shortcut to the kingdoms of the world. Why are shortcuts especially tempting when we're pursuing something good? Have you ever pursued the right thing in the wrong way? Is there something in your life right now where you're tempted to take a shortcut rather than trust God's way?

6. Jesus invites us to follow his way of surrender. Is there an area you're holding on to control instead of surrendering to him? Of the three areas (our needs, our desired outcomes, or the path we take), which is the hardest for you to surrender? Why?

7. How can we pray for one another as we seek to trust Jesus with our needs, our outcomes, and the path he's calling us to follow?
   Pray over this for one another before you end your group.