

**Jesus' wilderness experience is strategically \_\_\_\_\_**

• **Between the Father's declaration of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_**

*One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy." – Lk 3:21-22*

• **And the \_\_\_\_\_ of His public ministry**

*Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." – Lk. 4:14-19 (from Is. 61:1-2)*

**JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS**

*Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry. Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me." Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Then the devil*

*took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came. – LUKE 4:1-13, NLT*

**"WILDERNESS"** – from the Greek, *eremos*: "desert, deserted place, desolate place, solitary place, lonely place, quiet place, wilderness"

• The "eremos" is where so much of life \_\_\_\_\_  
*"There is a spiritual power of evil that both exists and has a purpose – to get you to either forfeit or extinguish the precious gift of life your Creator has given you." – Dan Wilt*

• Lives are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ what happens in the "eremos" places of life  
*"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." – Rom. 8:28*

• There "eremos" is \_\_\_\_\_ for us to mature into fullness of union with Christ  
*"The wild is a place of naked encounter with God and ourselves. It is the place we never want to go – but we choose to go there because the Spirit has led us there and we are not content to remain as we are." – Wilt*

• The "eremos" is where we discover  
 • \_\_\_\_\_ we are = our \_\_\_\_\_  
 • \_\_\_\_\_ we are = our \_\_\_\_\_  
 • \_\_\_\_\_ we are for = our \_\_\_\_\_

• The "eremos" is where are faith is proven \_\_\_\_\_  
*"There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while." – 1 Pet. 1:6*