4. John Mark Comer offers a method and template for building a "talk back" journal. We will use it below, but we will start with where he ends. His approach is to answer the second question below first (describe the sinful thought), then the third question, then to search for Scripture that answers the first question. Try his approach with an area of struggle you have if you have time.

What is the truth?

Matthew 6: 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[e]?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

What's a thought, feeling, and/or sensation [you experience that runs counter to the truth in this passage]?

What's the lie beneath the thought, feeling, and/or sensation that reveals your attachment to something other than God?

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?

$\left(\begin{array}{c} BEGIN \\ with prayer \end{array}\right)$	(LISTEN with care	$\begin{pmatrix} EAT \\ \text{together} \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} SERVE \\ \text{in love} \end{pmatrix}$	SHARE your story

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

The Fight

"How to Wield Scripture in the Fight"

Matthew 4:1-11

How to Wield Scripture in the Fight

Wi	elding Scripture is more than it; it's not a magical incantation.					
1.	Scripture.					
	You can't wield what you haven't					
	Sometimes our time in the Bible can actually keep the Bible of us.					
	"Microdosing of Scripture without a grasp of the whole can easily distort our interpretations. Time-tested traditions of long-form Scripture engagement expose us to and familiarize us with the contents of Scripture." (Dru Johnson)					
	"While personal character formation [through personal Scriptural engagement] essential, in isolation it aligns better with modernist tendencies than with the biblic focus on character formation through habits, rituals, and guidance from the community. This inward focus can also cast the formation of justice in communitie and systems—a primary concern of the biblical authors—as adhering to individualistic ethical principles." (Dru Johnson)					
	How is it that our time in the Bible can actually keep the Bible out of us?					
	We fail to study it, so we don't actually know it and it.					
	We individualize it, so we fail to apply it beyond our concerns and issues.					
2.	Scripture.					
	"The key not just to think about Scripture, but to think Scripture." (John Mark Comer in <u>Live No Lies: Recognize and Resist the Three Enemies That Sabotage Your Peace</u>)					
	As you learn Scripture you begin to Scripturally. (Romans 12:2)					

March 25/26, 2023 | Bringing the Story of God to Life

Samples from Evagrius Ponticus, Talking Back: A Monastic Handbook for Combatting Demons:

Against the Thoughts of Gluttony

- 11. Against the thought that embitters me in the life of harsh poverty: The Lord, shepherds me, and I will lack nothing (Psalm 22:1).
- 13. Against the thought that is attentive to food and clothing, but rejects attention to the truth:

I will declare my iniquity and I will attend to my sin (Psalm 37:19).

"Evagrius generated the most sophisticated demonology in all of ancient Christianity. And the most surprising feature of Evagrius's paradigm is his claim that the fight against demonic temptation is a fight against what he called logismoi-a Greek word that can be translated as 'thoughts,' 'thought patterns,' your 'internal narratives,' or 'internal belief structures.' They are the content of our thought lives and the mental markers by which we navigate life. For Evagrius, these logismoi weren't just thoughts; they were thoughts with a malignant will behind them, a dark, animating force of evil." (John Mark Comer)

3.	See	_ Scripture.			
	We need to see and relate to him.		_ the Scripture to t	the God of the Scriptu	ıre
	"Perfect love casts out it is necessary. But with love and an experience incantation when we want	nout a personal ce of that perfe	ct love in him, all v	_ with the God of per we have is a magical	

Resources for Long-form Scripture Engagement:

- Inductive Bible study with a small group where you observe what the passage is saying, interpret the passage, and apply it personally and corporately.
- Experiencing expository preaching in biblical community.
- The Story of God course
- The Bible Recap
- Memorization (especially sections or books of Scripture). There are apps that can help you memorize Scripture.
- S.O.A.P. method Bible study (individual and group)
- Lectio Divina
- Manuscript Bible study method (individual and group)
- Bible reading plans (see YouVersion)
- "Journey" in the BibleProject App

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion
 Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read Matthew 4:1-11. What do you think the devil is trying to do when he quotes Scripture?

3. What do you think the devil is trying to do by using that specific Scripture?