

Matthew 6:7-13

*"Lead us not into trial but deliver us from the Evil One."*

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a *πειρασμόν* (trial/ordeal) you're in right now, or one that is coming. How do you pray? Do you pray, "Father, if it is possible, take this cup from me," or do you just start problem-solving and asking for God to make it better? What would it look like to pray for the whole ordeal to be lifted, but then also trust God's answer either way?
2. Peter told Jesus, "I am ready to go with you to prison and to death", and then folded within hours. Where in your life have you been overconfident about your own strength against temptation? What would it mean instead to pray, honestly, "Lead me not into trial"?
3. Deliverance from the evil one isn't only about God extracting us from hardship. Rather, it's about our faith surviving intact and even strengthened. Think about a trial or suffering that you would never have chosen for yourself. Has God redeemed any part of it? Has he made you more faithful, more compassionate, more forgiving, or better able to strengthen others?
4. In Boston, we tend to medicalize or dismiss talk of the evil one and the spiritual battle. Where has that modern reflex quietly shaped how you think about your own temptations or suffering — chalking it up entirely to psychology, circumstance, or bad luck? What would collective discernment, with trusted brothers and sisters, look like for you?