

Temptation of Jesus

Luke 4:1–13 (HCSB)

Then Jesus returned from the Jordan, full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness² for 40 days to be tempted by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over, He was hungry.³ The Devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”⁴ But Jesus answered him, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone.”⁵ So he took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.⁶ The Devil said to Him, “I will give You their splendor and all this authority, because it has been given over to me, and I can give it to anyone I want.⁷ If You, then, will worship me, all will be Yours.”⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”⁹ So he took Him to Jerusalem, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.¹⁰ For it is written: He will give His angels orders concerning you, to protect you,¹¹ and they will support you with their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said: Do not test the Lord your God.”¹³ After the Devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him for a time.

I. Three Theological Truths from the Battle in the Wilderness:

1. Jesus’ victory in the wilderness avenges Adam’s loss in the garden.
2. Jesus’ victory over Satan in the wilderness foreshadows His ultimate victory over sin and death.
3. Jesus’ victory over Satan leaves us a blueprint for winning our daily battles.

II. Three Practical Truths for Winning Your Daily Battles:

1. Refuse to act independent of God. (Luke 4:3-4)

- It is better to be hungry in the will of God than temporarily satisfied out of the will of God.
- It is easy to follow God when He agrees with us.
- There are times when the Scripture is counterintuitive.

2. Realize there are no shortcuts. (Luke 4:5-8)

- Satan’s favorite trick is to offer us the crown without the cross.
- God’s pattern for our lives often times starts with a struggle and ends with glory. (1 Peter 5:10)

3. Don’t back God into a corner. (Luke 4:9-12)

- Remember that we are called to serve God, not use God.
- It is ignorance, not faith, to go out on a limb God never called us out on.

III. Final Truths About Temptation:

1. It’s not a sin to be tempted. (Hebrews 4:15)

2. When we’re tempted — what we do reveals who we are. (James 1:12-16; 1 Peter 1:6-7)

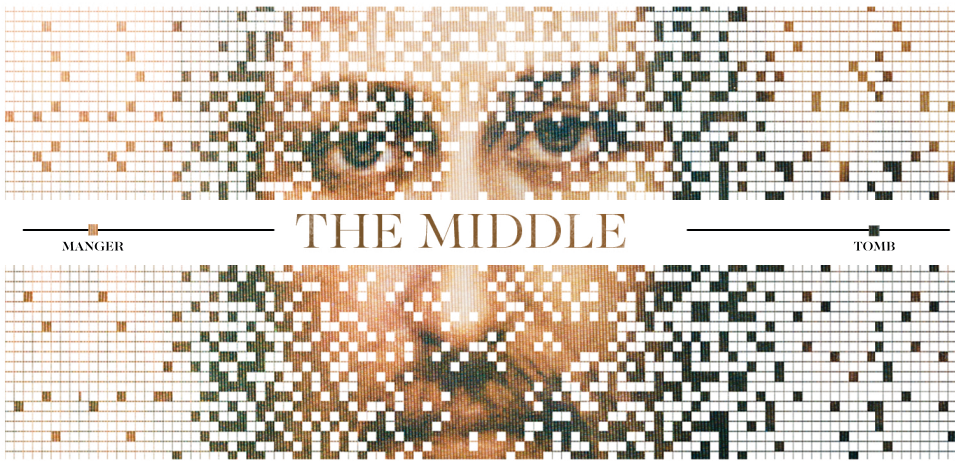
3. Our temptations are never too strong to resist. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

4. We must have an ‘it is written’ for each ‘I know I shouldn’t.’

5. The Holy Spirit empowers us for victory.

Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

(LUKE 4:1-13)

#NVSTORYSHARE

Gather family or friends and **retell the story of Jesus' temptation.**

Do your best to not stop and teach, or try to make points (commentary). Simply tell the story.

Rebuild the Story - Chronologically rebuild the story from memory. Ask questions if necessary. "What happened first?", "What happened next?", "Did we leave out anything?" Finally, have participants look at their Bibles and see if anything was added or left out of the story as they go through it one more time.

Ask Question - General questions to ask after each story. These questions may lead to follow up questions that you ask as you dig deeper into the groups/individuals response to the initial questions

- **What do we learn about Jesus/God in this story?**
- **What do we learn about man in the story?**
- **What did you learn new in the story?**
- **What questions does this raise for you?**
- **What should I do differently because of this story?**

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

- Where was Jesus when He was tempted?
- Who tempted Jesus?
- Did Jesus do what the Devil tempted Him to do?
- Who does the Bible tell us to worship?
- Can you tell me a way you can obey (do what you are supposed to do) this week?

ELEMENTARY

- Older Child – Who tempted Jesus? Who tempts us?
- Older Child–What can we learn from how Jesus responded to Satan's temptations?
- Young Child – Who tempted Jesus?
- Young Child – How did Jesus respond to the temptations of Satan?

STUDENTS

- What are the biggest temptations students in your school face?
- What is your biggest temptation? How can this story help you get through that temptation?

COLLEGE

- What temptations are you faced with as a college student/young adult?
- How did Jesus respond to Satan's attempt to tempt him?
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted?
- How does Jesus overcoming temptation strengthen your faith?
- Jesus responded to Satan's temptations with scripture. How are you preparing to withstand the temptations in your life?

ADULT

- In what way do we learn to respond to the temptations we face from how Jesus responded to Satan in this passage?
- Of the three types of temptation, which gives you the most trouble?
- What is the best way to fight temptation?
- Where are you most susceptible to temptation right now?
- Who are we tempted to serve other than the Lord our God?
- Why would God permit us to be tempted ?
- What is the significance of Christ's overcoming each of these temptations?

THE MIDDLE

MY TIME WITH GOD

MONDAY

Read Luke 3:1-9 - John the Baptist received God's message and proclaimed it to the people. He called for people to repent of sins in preparation for the Messiah's appearance. Eventually, John's public rebuke of a political ruler's sinful behavior landed him in prison (vv. 19-20).

What message did John preach? What is the purpose of repentance? Why do Christians, though saved, need to live a lifestyle of ongoing repentance? Repentance means turning from sin and turning to God. Repentance expresses a sincere, inner reorientation of life away from sin and toward God. Spiritual transformation within a person becomes evident in that individual's lifestyle and behavior. Once you have repented and been forgiven of sins, you become sensitive to areas of your life that are not in accordance with God's will. What do we miss if we fail to turn toward God in repentance and only turn away from sin? How did the crowds miss the point that saving faith leads to serving faith? What excuse did they have for not living for and serving God?

TUESDAY

Read Luke 3:15-18 According to Luke 3:15-16, how was John different from Jesus? Put John's warning in verse 17 into your own words. Why was this important to note in a conversation about repentance and the coming Messiah?

Read Luke 3:21-22 Luke used two accounts in Luke 3:21-38 to describe Jesus' credentials as the Messiah. First was Jesus's baptism, at which the Heavenly Father audibly affirmed Jesus as God's Son. Second was a genealogical record that traced Jesus's lineage through the Israelite patriarchs back to Adam, the first "son" of God (that is, first human that God created). Eighteen years had passed since Jesus, at the age of 12, went to the temple and listened to the religious teachers. Why do you think He chose to go to a river to announce the start of His ministry, rather than back to the temple? Who did He identify himself with through this action? How would you describe to someone who is not familiar with Jesus the importance of Him being both human and divine, and His role as mediator between God and us?

WEDNESDAY

Read Luke 4:1-13

Why do you think God's Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness?

Think of a personal wilderness experience from your life - what are the dangers of a wilderness experience? What are the potential blessings? What did this time of testing prove about Jesus? Why do you think Luke included the account so early in his Gospel? (Read Hebrews 4:15 and Romans 5:12-19 for insight.)

What three areas did his tempting focus on? (physical needs, vv. 3-4; pride, vv. 5-8; power, vv. 9-12) In which area do you most often find yourself tempted?

Why is knowing and obeying God's Word an effective weapon against temptation?

THE MIDDLE

MY TIME WITH GOD

THURSDAY

Read Matthew 4:1-11 - Do you notice any differences from Matthew's account of Jesus's temptation? (Hint: order of temptations)

This is not a contradiction, for Matthew reports the events sequentially (v. 5 'then,' v. 8 'again'), whereas Luke uses the weaker conjunction 'and' and arranges the temptation in a theological pattern. 1 John 2:16 helps us understand this pattern and the scope of His temptations, for it defines all sin as either:

- the lust of the flesh, (stones to bread)
- the lust of the eyes, (plunge from temple)
- the boastful pride of life; (kingdoms of the earth)

Satan tempted our Lord in each of these three categories. So, as Hebrews 4:15 states, "He was tempted in all things, yet is without sin."

FRIDAY

Read Luke 4:1-13 - Share the story with someone else this week.

Tips for prepping for the story. 1) Read the story out loud to yourself 2) Don't try to memorize it word for word 3) Be yourself when telling the story 4) Tell the story aloud to yourself as many times as it takes to feel comfortable with it 5) Identify areas of improvement 6) Try telling the story standing up. You might be surprised to find out how that you tell these story with more emphasis, emotion, and it will better keep the listeners attention.

This is a great story to have a couple or two friends share in the telling. One person is the main narrator. At the appropriate time one takes the role of Jesus and one of the devil.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' **Luke 4:8**