

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 3

*Temptation in the Wilderness*

# Temptation

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

**Objective** To show how Christ used the Scripture to overcome the temptations of Satan.

## Key Verses

Luke 4:1-15—Main Teaching Passage

Deuteronomy 8:3

Deuteronomy 6:13

Deuteronomy 6:16

Psalm 91:11, 12

## Memory Verse - Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

## Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Luke 2:11.

Briefly summarize Luke 2:41-52, showing Jesus growing into a man, then transition to Luke 4.

Ask the students to define the word “temptation.”

Ask the students to describe things that cause temptation in their own lives.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

In chapters 2 and 3, Luke spends very little time telling us about Jesus' early life, except to tell us that from a very early age Jesus was able to reason from the Scriptures, even to the point where He amazed the scribes and scholars. We are then told that He grew in wisdom, stature, and in the favor of God and men. Luke only briefly includes Jesus' baptism by John, and then proceeds directly to Jesus training ground for ministry: His temptation in the wilderness.

After having not eaten anything for 40 days, and having already successfully rejected the temptations of Satan over that period, Satan launched his final attack on Christ. He began by appealing to Christ's flesh. Jesus hadn't eaten anything and was hungry. Satan called on Him to use His power for selfish purposes and turn the stones into bread and eat. Christ responded by quoting the Scripture, and standing on the Word of God.

Satan then offered Christ the kingdoms of the world without having to suffer and die on the cross. All He would have to do was bow down and worship the Enemy. Again Jesus responded from the Scripture, and obeyed the Word of His Father.

Finally, Satan quoted Psalm 91, tempting Jesus with a misinterpretation of Scripture. Jesus, the author of Scripture, saw through this desperate attempt and again leaned on the Word of God. The section of Scripture finishes by stating, "When he had every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."

# LOOK

The word temptation means "to desire to do something wrong or unwise." Temptation is a powerful driving force in our lives and the reason is found right there in the definition. We *WANT* to do that thing that we know we shouldn't. Sometimes our desire to do that wrong or unwise thing becomes so strong that we give in to temptation, and even though we know we shouldn't, we do.

Temptation can come in many forms, from something as simple as eating a cookie that your parents told you not to, to stealing, lying, and cheating. When Jesus took on flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14), He took on everything about humanity, including the temptation to sin. In fact Hebrews tells us, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

The interpretation/  
exegesis of the passage.  
What does this passage  
mean? How does this  
passage apply to my  
life?

# LOOK (Continued)

Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, and yet He was without sin. Jesus understands exactly what it is like to be tempted, to be presented with the opportunity to do the wrong thing. Jesus was hungry. He hadn't eaten anything for 40 days. He MUST have wanted to eat anything He could get His hands on, but He didn't.

The way that Jesus overcame temptation was to remember the Word of God and be obedient to it rather than His own desires. Every time Satan tempted Jesus, He used the Word of God to defend Himself, to help overcome the desire to do what Satan was asking Him to do. Satan was particularly tricky when He tried to tempt Jesus with the Word of God itself. Of course, you can't fool the author of the Book with the words that are found inside it.

This is the reason that we memorize Scripture, and the reason that we repeatedly tell you to read and know God's Word. God's Word is a powerful tool that helps us to live, and it guides us through confusing and difficult circumstances. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." Knowing God's Word is an important part of every Christian's life. Taking time every day to read it and to memorize it will benefit you in ways that we can't fully express. One of the major ones of course will be that it helps to keep you from sin and temptation.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Hebrews 4:12.

Talk to the students about how they can know God's Word. Give them some tips that you use to study, and to carve out time in your day to find time to study.

**Pray:** Praise the Lord for overcoming temptation and showing us how we can lean on the Word of God to do likewise. Thank Him for coming into the world and understanding our pain and struggle with sin. Ask Him for the strength to stand on God's Word to overcome our own temptation.

**Parent Question:** How did Jesus respond to being tempted by Satan in the wilderness?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Luke 4:1-13 by David Guzik

### *Luke 4 - Jesus' Temptation and First Galilean Ministry*

A. The temptation of Jesus.

1. (1-2a) Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil.

a. **Being filled with the Holy Spirit:** In Luke 3:21-22 we read of how the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in an unusual way at His baptism. We should not infer that He was *not* filled with the Holy Spirit before, only that He was now **filled with the Holy Spirit** in an unusual and public way.

i. We can say – certainly for the most part, and perhaps entirely – that Jesus lived His life and performed His ministry *as a Spirit-filled man*, choosing *not* to rely on the resources of His divine nature, but willingly limiting Himself to what could be done by the guidance of God the Father and the empowering of God the Holy Spirit.

b. **Was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted:** After identifying with sinners in baptism (Luke 3:21-22), He then identified with them in temptation. *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.* (Hebrews 4:15)

i. We sometimes think that Jesus' temptations were not real because they were not exactly like ours. There was never a sinful pull or a sinful memory inside of Jesus, like in us. But in many ways, Jesus' temptations were more real and more severe. For us, often times the pressure of temptation only relents when we give in - and Jesus never did. He had to withstand a much greater pressure of temptation than you or I ever will.

ii. The word or idea of *temptation* is used in three different senses in the Bible.

- Satan, working through our own lusts, tempts us to perform evil acts - a solicitation or enticement to evil (1 Corinthians 7:5 and James 1:13-14).
- We may tempt God in the sense of wrongly putting Him to the test (Acts 5:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:9).
- God may test us, but never with a solicitation or enticement to evil (Hebrews 11:17).

iii. "This is the most sacred of stories, for it can have come from no other source than his own lips. At some time he must have had himself told his disciples about this most intimate experience of his soul." (Barclay)

c. **Filled with the Holy Spirit...led by the Spirit into the wilderness:** Walking in the Spirit, Jesus was still led **into the wilderness** where He was **tempted**. The Holy Spirit leads us into seasons of wilderness as well

as seasons of green pastures.

i. There are parallels with the way that Jesus was tested and the way that Adam was tested; but Adam faced his temptation in the most favorable circumstances imaginable, and Jesus faced His temptations in bad and severe circumstances.

d. **Being tempted for forty days:** Jesus was tempted for the entire **forty days**. What follows are highlights of that season of temptation.

2. (2b-4) The first temptation: transform stone into bread for personal needs.

And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

a. **He ate nothing...He was hungry:** To tempt a man with food, who had fasted for forty days seems almost unfair; yet the Father allowed it because He knew Jesus could endure it. God will never allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist (1 Corinthians 10:13).

i. The fact that Luke the physician noted that **afterward...He was hungry** is important. After such a long fast, renewed hunger often points to a critical need for food. Jesus was beginning to starve to death.

ii. Jesus was hungry, but full of the Spirit. We are sometimes just the opposite - full stomachs and empty spirits.

b. **And the devil said to Him:** The Bible clearly teaches the existence and activity of a evil being of great power and cunning, who sets himself against God and God's people. This one is sometimes called **the devil**, sometimes Satan (Luke 4:8), and many other names or titles.

c. **If You are the Son of God:** This could be more accurately translated *since You are the Son of God*. Satan didn't suggest doubt about Jesus' identity. Instead, He challenged Jesus *to display* His identity.

i. The temptation was basically this: "Since You're the Messiah, why are You so deprived? Do a little something for Yourself." The same temptation comes to us: "If you're a child of God, why are things so tough? Do a little something for yourself."

d. **Command this stone to become bread:** Satan enticed Jesus to use the power of God for selfish purposes. The temptation to eat something inappropriate worked well with the first sinless man (Genesis 3:6), so the devil thought to try it on the second sinless man.

i. "This wilderness was not a wilderness of sand. It was covered by little bits of limestone exactly like loaves." (Barclay)

ii. By this, we also see how temptation often works. Often, this is the pattern of temptation:

- Satan appealed to a *legitimate* desire within Jesus (the desire to eat and survive).
- Satan suggested that Jesus fulfill this legitimate desire in an *illegitimate* way.

e. **But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"** Jesus countered Satan's suggestion with Scripture (Deuteronomy 8:3). What Satan said made sense - "Why starve yourself to death?" But what **is written** makes even more sense. Jesus reminded Satan of Biblical truth, that **every word of God** is more important than the very bread we eat.

i. Jesus used *Scripture* to battle Satan's temptation, not some elaborate spiritual power inaccessible to us. Jesus fought this battle as a Spirit-filled, Word-of-God-filled man. He drew on no divine resources that are unavailable to us.

ii. We effectively resist temptation in the same way Jesus did: filled with the Holy Spirit, we answer Satan's seductive lies by shining the light of God's truth upon them. If we are ignorant of God's truth, we are poorly armed in the fight against temptation.

3. (5-8) The second temptation: all the kingdoms of this world in exchange for a moment of worship.

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

a. **Taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time:** It seems best to understand this as a mental or spiritual vision. The experience and the temptation were real, but there doesn't seem to be a mountain high enough to literally see **all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time**.

b. **All the kingdoms of the world...All this authority I will give to You, and their glory:** The devil knew Jesus had come to win **the kingdoms of the world**. This was an invitation to win back the world without going to the cross. Satan would simply **give** it to Jesus, if Jesus would **worship before** the devil.

i. **For this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish:** Satan claimed that authority over the earth's kingdoms was **delivered** to him, and Jesus never challenged the statement. We might say that Adam and all of his collective descendants **delivered** to Satan when God gave man dominion over the earth, and Adam and his descendants forfeited it to Satan (Genesis 1).

ii. Satan is *the ruler of this world* (John 12:31) and *the prince of the power of the air* (Ephesians 2:2) by the popular election of mankind since the days of Adam.

iii. Since Satan possesses the glory of the kingdoms of this world, and can **give it to whomever I wish**, it should not surprise us to see the ungodly in positions of power and prestige.

c. **If You will worship before me, all will be Yours:** The Father's plan for Jesus was for Him to suffer first, then enter His glory (Luke 24:25-26). Satan offered Jesus a way out of the suffering.

i. One day, it will be said that *The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever* (Revelation 11:15). Satan offered this to Jesus now, before the agony of the cross.

ii. If Jesus accepted this, our salvation would be impossible. He might have gained some sort of authority to rule, delegated from Satan, but He could not redeem individual sinners through His sacrifice.

d. **And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan!"** Satan brought a powerful temptation to Jesus, and Jesus *resisted* the influence of Satan, first by saying, **"Get behind Me, Satan!"** In this, Jesus fulfilled the exhortation later expressed in James 4:7: *Resist the devil and he will flee from you*.

e. **For it is written, "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve."** For the second

time, Jesus countered Satan's deception with Biblical truth, quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13. There might have seemed to be an advantage in Jesus avoiding the cross, but Jesus affirmed to Himself and reminded Satan that the command to **worship the Lord your God** and serve **Him only** is far above any supposed advantage in bowing to Satan.

i. Again, Jesus answered Satan with the same resource available to every believer: the Word of God used by a Spirit-filled believer. In resisting these temptations as a man, Jesus proved that Adam did not *have* to sin; there was not something faulty in his make up. Jesus faced worse than Adam did and Jesus never sinned.

4. (9-13) The third temptation: testing God through signs and wonders.

Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

a. **Set Him on the pinnacle of the temple:** Satan took Jesus to a prominent, high place. From this wall surrounding the temple mount, it was hundreds of feet to the rocky valley floor below. If Jesus followed Satan's request to **throw Yourself down from here**, it would be a spectacular event.

i. According to Geldenhuys, the ancient Jewish writing *Pesiqta Rabbati* (162a) records a traditional belief that the Messiah would show Himself to Israel standing on the roof of the temple. If Jesus did what Satan suggested, it would fulfill the Messianic expectation of His day.

b. **Throw Yourself down from here:** Satan could not himself throw Jesus off the pinnacle of the temple. He could do no more than suggest, so he had to ask Jesus to throw *Himself* down.

c. **For it is written: "He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you":** This time, the Devil knew and quoted Scripture in his temptation (Psalm 91:11-12). "Go ahead, Jesus; if You do this, then the Bible promises angels will rescue You, and it will be spectacular self-promotion."

i. When Satan says, "**For it is written,**" it reminds us that Satan is a Bible expert and knows how to twist Bible passages out of their context. Sadly, many people will accept anyone who quotes a Bible verse as if they taught God's truth, but the mere use of Bible words does not necessarily convey the will of God.

ii. Some suggest that Satan is such a Bible expert because he has spent centuries looking for loopholes.

d. **And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"** Jesus answered Satan's misuse of Scripture with the proper use of the Bible, quoting from Deuteronomy 6:16. As Jesus rejected Satan's twisting of Scripture, He rightly divided the word of truth, understanding it in its context.

i. Jesus understood from His knowledge of the *whole counsel of God* (Acts 20:27) that Satan twisted this passage from Psalm 91. Jesus knew how to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

ii. Jesus understood that Satan enticed Him to take a step of "faith" that would actually test (**tempt**) God in an ungodly way. "The temptation may have been to perform a spectacular, but pointless miracle in order to compel wonder and belief of a kind." (Morris)

e. **Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time:** When Satan saw that he couldn't get anywhere, he left for a while. The devil will always seek to come



back at an **opportune time**, so we should never give him the opportunity.

i. "Evil had nothing more to suggest. The thoroughness of the temptation was the completeness of the victory." (Morgan)

ii. Satan is not stupid; he will not continually put his limited resources into an ineffective battle. If you want Satan to leave you alone for a while, you must continually resist him. Many are *so attacked* because they resist *so little*.

iii. Jesus resisted these temptations because He walked in the Word and in the Spirit; these two are the resources for Christian living. Too much Word and not enough Spirit and you *puff up* (in the sense of pride). Too much Spirit and not enough Word and you *blow up*. With the Word and the Spirit together, you *grow up*.