

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 3

The Temptation of Jesus

The Temptation of Jesus

The Objective is the key concept for this week's 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 verses 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 teach the students that the difference between Jesus' humanity and ours is that He had no sin.

Key Verses

Luke 4:1-13—Main Teaching Passage
Matthew 4:1-11 (Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - Hebrews 4:15

"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."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 3:1-2.

Have a volunteer come to the front of the class. Ask the class to list similarities between you and that student. Then have the class name some differences.

Jesus was a human just like us, and so He shared lots of similarities with us. However, today we are going to look at a major difference between us and Jesus: Jesus never sinned.

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

Immediately after Jesus' baptism (which we studied last week), the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. There he spent 40 days fasting (not eating anything) and being tempted by the Devil. At the end of this time, He was naturally very hungry. Satan came to Jesus and challenged Him to use His divine power as God's Son to turn the stones into bread. Jesus responded by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, saying that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Next, Luke tells us that Satan took Jesus on a high mountaintop and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world (note that Matthew flips the last two temptations). He offered power over all these kingdoms to Jesus on the condition that Jesus would worship him. But Jesus answered him with Deuteronomy 6:13, saying that only God is worthy of worship.

Finally, Satan took Jesus to the top of the temple and told Him to jump off and let the angels catch Him. This time, Satan had Scriptures of his own, quoting Psalm 91:11-12. Once again, Jesus responded with Scripture, telling Satan that Deuteronomy 6:16 tells us not to tempt the Lord and put Him to the test in such a way. After that, Luke tells us that Satan departed from Jesus, waiting for an opportune time to attack Him again. Meanwhile, Matthew mentions that angels came to minister to Jesus after the temptation. Jesus had successfully overcome the Devil.

LOOK

In almost every way, Jesus was a human just like you and me. He had skin and bones, just like us. He got tired and needed to sleep. When He fell down, He still cut Himself and would bleed. The beginning of our story tells us that when Jesus didn't eat for forty days, He became hungry, just like any of us would. In fact, in today's story we even discover that Jesus experienced temptation just like the rest of humanity. However, what is even more important to this story is the one way Jesus was not like everyone else: Jesus never sinned.

Two weeks ago, we saw Satan trying to thwart God's plan to send a Savior by attempting to kill all the children in Bethlehem. Today, his tactic is different. Satan knew that if he could get Jesus to sin, Jesus would not be able to save the rest of humanity from our sins. Only a sinless Savior could save sinful humanity. He appealed to some of humanity's great weaknesses in his temptations. First, he attacked Jesus' natural desire for food. Next, He presented an opportunity to have world rule without going

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

LOOK (Continued)

to the cross. Finally, he appealed to pride, tempting Jesus to demonstrate how powerful and important He is. These temptations have been the downfall of many people since Adam and Eve, but Jesus stood firm. He did not sin once.

While Jesus is different from us in that He didn't sin, the method He used to face temptation and sin is something that each of us can use: the Word of God! He didn't use His power to consume Satan with fire or transport Himself to another location. Instead, Jesus used Bible verses as a weapon against the Devil. In our struggle against temptation, we should also be using Scripture. Note that Jesus did not ask Satan to wait for a minute while He looked up something helpful in the Bible. He had memorized these three verses and was able to quote them because they were hidden in His heart. This is why we memorize Scripture in Sunday School. Also realize that Jesus not only knew what the Bible *says*, but what it *means*. When Satan tried to quote Bible verses at Jesus, Jesus knew the Bible well enough to know that Satan was using the Bible incorrectly. It is important for us to be spending lots of time in the Bible before we are tempted so that when temptation comes, we are ready.

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 4:15.

Review the lesson by asking the class what temptations Jesus faced. Ask how He overcame those temptations.

Pray: Praise Jesus for overcoming temptation so that He could defeat sin and death for us. Ask Him for help as we seek to overcome temptation in our own lives.

Parent Question: What is the best way to overcome temptation based on Jesus' temptation in the wilderness?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 4:1-13 by David Guzik

A. The temptation of Jesus.

1. ([Luke 4:1-2a](#)) 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 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. ([Luke 4:2b-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. ([Luke 4:5-8](#)) 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. ([Luke 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 sur-

rounding 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*.