

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 3

Jesus overcomes temptation

Luke 4:1-13



DAY 1

God tested Jesus for 40 days • Luke 4:1-2

READ

Luke 4:1-13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 4:1-2

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted (Luke 4:1b). But how can this be, if God does not tempt anyone with evil (Jas 1:13)? The same trial is both a temptation from Satan and a test from God. God ordains it, and the devil carries it out, but they have opposite goals (Job 2:3-6). The devil tempted in order to destroy the Son's relationship with His Father and disqualify Him from being the Messiah. But God tested Jesus to prove that He was the faithful Son, qualified to be the Messiah. This temptation was necessary because we need a Messiah who succeeded where we failed. Both Adam and Israel were called the son of God (Luke 3:38; Exod 4:22), but both failed when they were tempted (Gen 2:16-17; 3:6; Deut 8:2; Ezek 36:20). No one, from Adam to Israel to you, has lived out God's purpose for mankind (Rom 3:10, 23). Thus the nation of Israel and all of Adam's race are destined to die (6:23)—unless a perfect son of Adam and a perfect Israelite can overcome Satan's temptations and live out God's purpose for mankind.

ASK

1. Who led Jesus into the wilderness?
The Holy Spirit.
2. Why did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness?
God was testing Jesus to prove that He was His faithful Son.
3. Who tempted Jesus?
Satan tempted Jesus.
4. Who else had Satan tempted? Did they resist?
Satan had tempted Adam and Israel. Both failed to resist Satan's temptations and sinned against God.

DISCUSS

1. How have you failed to live out God's purpose for your life (Mic 6:8)?
2. How can God's control over temptation help you overcome temptation (1 Cor 10:13)?

DAY 2

Satan's First Temptation: Don't depend on God's provision • Luke 4:3-4

READ

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 4:3-4

Usually, powerful people use their power to get what they want. But no one has more power than Jesus, because He is the Son of God. So when Satan said, "If you are the Son of God," he was trying to get Him to use His divine power to help Himself. He wanted Jesus to stop relying on His Father, just as Adam and Israel had done. But since the Spirit had led Jesus into the wilderness to fast (4:1-2), it was up to the Spirit, not Jesus, to end that fast. Jesus had a choice: use His divine power to satisfy Himself, or trust His Father to provide. Jesus was not fooled, for He remembered how Israel had failed to trust God when they were hungry in the wilderness (Deut 8:2-3; Exod 16:3; Num 11:4-6). A whole generation of Israelites died as a result. Unlike Israel, Jesus trusted God to provide food. And unlike Adam, Jesus refused to stray from God's plan (John 5:19). He refused to use His divine power on His own (Phil 2:7). Jesus faithfully obeyed God, and God was faithful to provide (Matt 4:11).

ASK

1. Was Satan unsure about Jesus' identity?
No. Satan knew exactly who Jesus was (Luke 4:34).
2. What did Satan ask Jesus to do?
To turn the stone into bread.
3. How did Jesus respond to Satan?
By quoting Scripture that reminded of the way Israel had failed (Deut 8:3).
4. Did Jesus turn the stone into bread?
No. Jesus trusted His Father to provide food.

DISCUSS

1. Miracles and bread are not sinful, so why was it wrong for Jesus to turn the stone into bread?
2. When you have some problem, what is the first thing you try to do to solve it (Matt 6:25-33)?

DAY 3

Satan's Second Temptation: Don't wait for God's timing • Luke 4:5-8

READ

Luke 4:1-13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 4:5-8

Do you like to wait...and wait...and wait? It is especially hard to wait for something that you deserve to have. That is the second way Satan tempted Jesus. He tempted Jesus with supreme authority and glory, things that Jesus deserved anyway. It was not wrong for Jesus to have these things, since the Father had already

promised them (Ps 2). But Satan was tempting Jesus to be impatient. He was saying, "Why wait for what's already yours? Take what God has promised you now!" Again, Jesus succeeded where all others failed. Unlike Israel, who impatiently turned to idols in the wilderness (Exod 32:1, 8), Jesus refused to worship Satan (Luke 4:7-8). By quoting Deuteronomy a second time (Deut 6:13-14), He proved His focus was on God's glory, not His own. Jesus patiently waited. He endured the cross because He trusted in God to exalt Him at the proper time (Phil 2:9; Rev 11:15). Beware of the quick and easy way. Trust God's timing.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. How did Satan tempt Jesus a second time?
By offering Him all the kingdoms of the world.
2. Why was it wrong for Jesus to accept kingdoms from Satan?
He would not have been trusting God's timing, and it would have required Jesus to worship Satan instead of God.
3. How did Jesus respond to Satan?
By quoting Scripture (Deut 6:13).
4. Did Jesus accept kingdoms from Satan?
No. Jesus patiently waited and trusted in God to exalt Him at the proper time.

DISCUSS 

1. If God had already promised to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world (Ps 2), why was it wrong for Jesus to receive them from Satan?
2. Have you ever done something the quick way and regretted it afterward? Why should you beware of the quick and easy way?

DAY 4**Satan's Third Temptation: Don't trust God's way • Luke 4:9-12****READ** 

Luke 4:9-12

EXPLAIN **The truth of Luke 4:9-12**

Think of all the ways people try to make their lives easier and take away pain. From microwaves to painkillers, humans normally try to get what they want with as little pain as possible. Satan tried to use this against Jesus, urging him to make God exalt Him before the pain of the cross. As before, Satan was tempting Jesus to claim something that God had already promised. He even quoted Scripture to prove it, twisting the meaning of a passage about trusting God in order to get Jesus to **test God** (Ps 91:11-12). But if Jesus had thrown Himself off the top of the temple, He would no longer have been the submissive Son, content to follow the Father's lead. But Jesus, unlike Israel, refused to manipulate God. He again remembered Israel's failure (Deut 6:16) and would not force God to prove His presence through miracles (Exod 17:1-7). Because Jesus trusted God's way and suffered even to the point of death, God raised Jesus from the dead and highly exalted Him. Trust in God's way—even when He leads you through suffering.

ASK 

1. How did Satan tempt Jesus a third time?
Satan asked Jesus to throw Himself off the temple in order to prove God's love for Him.
2. Why was it wrong for Jesus to throw Himself off the temple?
He would no longer have been the submissive Son, content to follow the Father's lead.
3. How did Jesus respond to Satan?
By quoting Scripture (Deut 6:16).
4. Did Jesus throw Himself off the temple?
No. Jesus trusted in God's way, even though it led through suffering.

DISCUSS 

1. Why is it good for God to cause you to experience suffering (Heb 12:11; 1 Pet 4:1-2)?
2. How do people "twist" the meaning of Scripture? Why do they do it? Why is it wrong?

DAY 5

Jesus was victorious over temptation • Luke 4:13

READ

Luke 4:1-13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 4:13

Something happened that had never happened before. For the first time ever, there was a man that Satan could not tempt to sin. This proved that Jesus was qualified to fulfill God's plan for mankind in general (Rom 5:19) and for Israel in particular (Isa 49:3, 6). He also shows us how to overcome temptation. First, like Jesus, we must resist by faith. Since God is even in control over temptation (Job 1:12), trust that He will always provide a way for you to overcome temptation (1 Cor 10:13). Second, be **filled with the Spirit**, seeking and submitting to the Spirit's control over every area of your life (Luke 4:1; Acts 4:31; Eph 5:18). As you follow the Spirit's lead through prayer and God's Word, you will successfully deny your sinful desires (Gal 5:16). Third, resist by hiding God's Word in your heart (Ps 119:9-11; Col 3:16). Fourth, deny yourself and put God and others first (Phil 2:3-8). Fifth, depend on Christ in you (Gal 2:20). The same Christ who conquered Satan in the wilderness is able to conquer Satan in your own heart (1 John 4:4).

ASK

1. Did Satan get Jesus to sin?
No. Jesus never sinned, and Satan lost.
2. How did Jesus answer Satan each time?
With the Bible, God's Word.
3. Why can you be confident in Jesus to save you?
Jesus is sinless; He is qualified to be the Messiah.
4. How can you follow Jesus' example when you are tempted?
H(1) Resist by faith, knowing that God is in control and will provide a way of escape. (2) Be filled with the Spirit. (3) Hide God's Word in your heart. (4) Deny yourself and put God and others first. (5) Depend on Christ, who lives within every Christian.

DISCUSS

1. When you are tempted, do you sometimes feel like you can't resist, as if you have to give in eventually? Do you have to (1 Cor 10:13)?
2. Satan might keep tempting you for a while, but what will he eventually do if you keep resisting (Luke 4:13; Jas 4:7).

NEXT WEEK

Jesus calls the disciples

Mark 1:16-20

