

THE GOSPEL
of **LUKE**

Jesus
is tempted in
the wilderness.

CURRENT THEME:

The Gospel of Luke - Jesus Is Tempted in the Wilderness

MEMORY VERSE

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

MARCH 8 | LIFE APPLICATION

**We can resist temptation with
the help of the Holy Spirit.**

Theme: Luke - Jesus is tempted in the wilderness.

Scripture: [Luke 4:1-15](#)

Life Application: We can resist temptation with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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

Note for Parents from David Chadwick

After his baptism, Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit leads him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Then, he begins 40 days of fasting. Remember, the devil often attacks us when we are very weak: in body, soul, and spirit. The devil is relentless. We must learn to resist him ([James 4:7](#)), and he will flee. As he tempted Jesus, so he tempts us.

Discuss [Luke 4:1-2](#)

1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

1. **What happened after Jesus was baptized?** (*The Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness.*) Jesus went from a great high (baptism) quickly to a great low (temptation). This often happens with us as well.
 2. **How long was Jesus in the wilderness?** (*40 days*)
 3. **What happened while he was there?** (He was tempted by the devil, and he did not eat the entire time — he was fasting.) **How do you feel when you haven't eaten for a while? What if you had to abstain from eating for 40 days?** That's about as long as a person can live without food! This is the reason Jesus was so weak during his temptation by the devil. But Jesus was strong in Spirit, as we need to be when we are being tempted.
 4. **What does it mean to be "tempted?"** (*Discuss*) **Have you ever been tempted to do something you knew was wrong?** It's like a lure for fish or bait to catch a mouse. Even Jesus had to face temptation!
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Discuss [Luke 4:3-4](#)

3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

1. At the end of 40 days of fasting, when he was weak, the devil began tempting Jesus. **How did he tempt Jesus in verses 3 and 4?** (*First, to prove he was the Son of God, and then to use his power to help himself by turning a stone into bread.*)
2. **How did Jesus respond to the devil?** (*He said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"*)

In other words, Jesus stated that he would use his powers only for the glory of God, which is found in **Deuteronomy 8:3**. Jesus knew the Bible, and he used the words written in the Bible to fight against the devil's temptation! **Did he learn God's Word as a child? Did Mary and Joseph teach it to him?** We should also keep God's Word in our hearts so that we can resist temptation.

Discuss Luke 4:5–8

5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

1. In **verses 5–8**, the devil tried again to tempt Jesus. **What did the devil want Jesus to do?** (*To worship him.*)
 2. **And what did the devil promise to do if Jesus would worship him?** (*He would give Jesus authority over all the kingdoms of the world.*)
 3. **Was Jesus tempted?** (*No. Once again, Jesus knew exactly what to say.*) **Who is the only one who should be worshiped and served?** (*The Lord our God — we must worship the Creator, not creation or anything in it.*)
 4. **What kinds of things do people worship instead of the Lord?** (*Other people, things, "stuff" they have or want to have, social media, nature, sports, etc.*) **How can we keep from worshiping anything besides the Lord?** (*Discuss*)
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Discuss Luke 4:9–12

9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him 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 command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' 11 and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" 12 And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

1. **What did the devil do next?** (He took Jesus to Jerusalem, to the pinnacle — or highest point — of the temple.) **How did the devil tempt Jesus this time?** (He challenged Jesus to jump down from the pinnacle to prove these words: “He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,” and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”)

The devil knew that if Jesus did this, the angels would save him, and everyone would know his power and Jesus would gain many followers. So he thought this would be a temptation Jesus could not resist!

2. This time, Jesus quoted the Bible again. See **Deuteronomy 6:16** — “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
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Discuss Luke 4:13

13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

1. In **verse 13**, the devil stopped tempting Jesus. **Why?** (He failed. Jesus resisted every temptation!) **Did he quit forever?** (No — he left until an “opportune time.”) **What do you think that means? What word does “opportune” sound like?** (He waited for another opportunity.)
 2. **Do you think the devil wants to tempt us? (Discuss) Do you think he ever gives up trying to tempt us?**
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Discuss Luke 4:14–15

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. 15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick: After this time in the wilderness and resisting the temptation of the devil, Jesus went from town to town “in the power of the Spirit.” Preaching. Teaching. And all glorified him, seeing something special in him.

Please note he continued to be “in the power of the Spirit” — this is what he received in baptism, and what was with him in the wilderness.

You simply can't complete God's will for your life without the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Remember:

- The devil is real and wants to tempt and destroy us
 - Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and you have God's strongest weapon
 - He is a defeated foe (enemy). He has no power or authority over a born-again believer in Jesus
 - **Memorize God's Word** and speak it to the devil when he tempts. He will flee when hearing it. It's God's next strongest weapon: see **Ephesians 6:17**
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Prayer

Jesus, we thank you for showing us how to resist temptation. Thank you for your Word, that teaches us. Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and to keep us from temptation. We love you! Amen.

Family Challenge

Together with your family, read the following verses and ask everyone to choose a verse to memorize this week.

- *“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”* **1 John 4:4 (ESV)**
- *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”* **Romans 8:37 (ESV)**
- *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* **Romans 8:1 (NIV)**
- *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”* **Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)**
- *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* **James 4:7 (NIV)**
- *“Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”* **1 Peter 5:9 (NIV)**

Give everyone a large index card on which to write the verse and decorate it with a border or picture. Then ask each person to place their verse (with painter's tape) somewhere (a wall, a mirror, etc.) where they will see it and practice it regularly. At the end of the week, get together to share your verses with each other and discuss how knowing these verses can help us avoid temptation and obey the Lord.