

Get more out of the message



## LUKE

### Luke 4:1-15

How can we become the Christ-centered church our world so desperately needs? Join us in Luke's Gospel, the most expansive biography of Jesus in the Bible. With the beloved physician as our guide, we hope to experience Jesus so we can participate with the new reality God is bringing into our world.

**WATCH:** [YouTube](#) or [Website](#)

## The Big Idea

How do we overcome temptation? By leaning into God's Word and knowing its power.

## Good to Know

- The temptation story marks Jesus' final stage of preparation before launching His ministry. If Jesus' preparation for ministry was like training to be a Navy SEAL, this grueling phase would be His "Hell Week."
- No human—not even God's chosen people—had ever succeeded in a "wilderness temptation" before (Ex. 17:1-7; Deut. 8:2). Would Jesus succeed where His ancestors failed, proving He is the true "Son of God" (vs. 3)? Or would He fail and fade into obscurity like His forefathers?
- The point of this passage is to show that Jesus is the faithful Son of God who truly understands "every temptation" we face yet did not sin (Heb. 4:15-16). But, more than that, it reveals how God gives us real spiritual power to follow in His Son's footsteps.
- Jesus was led by the Spirit (vs. 1). In other words, God deliberately set up a showdown between His enemy and His Son.
- Jesus' 40-day fast (vs. 2) reminds us of similar fasts by Moses and Elijah, while also echoing Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.
- During those 40 days, Jesus literally ate nothing and probably drank only water.
- The three tests Jesus faced were:
  1. Trusting His Father for provision instead of taking shortcuts (vv. 3-4).
  2. Trusting the Father's plan for reclaiming the world that was rightfully His (vv. 5-8).
  3. Refusing to demand "proof" of God's power (vv. 9-12).
- Note how the devil twisted Scripture by taking Psalm 91:11-12 out of context (vs. 10-11).
- While these tests overlap with our experiences, they are unique to Jesus. Most of us don't have the ability to turn rocks into food or have such a deep desire to rule the world that we'd be tempted to worship the devil. But for Jesus, these temptations were palpable.

- However, while the temptations were unique to Jesus, the devil’s tactics were not. He always tempts us to take shortcuts to fulfillment.
- Jesus countered each of the devil’s temptations by quoting from Moses’ sermon to his failed people in Deuteronomy. You can look up the quotes in Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:13 and 6:16.
- Our response to Jesus’ success should be like how we respond when an Olympian shatters a world record—with awe and applause, recognizing the dedication and sacrifice it took to accomplish the impossible.
- More than that, our response should be one of gratitude and worship. Jesus’ faithful obedience to the Father makes our justification possible.

## Group Guide

### Following the series with your group?

- Start with some [icebreaker questions](#).
- Read the passage together before you dive in.
- Share any insights from the message. Use the questions below to get your conversation started.

## Conversation Starters

1. When you’re really hungry, what meal or snack sounds amazing to you?
2. Jesus underwent 40 days of fasting and testing before launching His ministry. How do you see God preparing you for the work He’s calling you to do? What spiritual disciplines might help you prepare for the challenges ahead?
3. The devil tempted Jesus to take shortcuts to meet His needs and fulfill His mission. What are some “shortcuts” you’re tempted to take in your own life? How can Jesus’ example help you resist?
4. Jesus countered each temptation by quoting Scripture. What does this teach us about the importance of knowing and applying God’s Word? Are there specific Bible verses you turn to when you face struggles?
5. Jesus refused to test God or bypass His plan, even when it meant enduring suffering. How can we trust God’s timing and plan in our lives, especially when things feel uncertain or difficult?
6. Jesus succeeded where others (like Israel in the wilderness) failed. How does His victory encourage you in your daily battles against sin and temptation? How does it give you hope for your own faith journey?
7. Luke highlights that Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit” and “led by the Spirit” (vs. 1, 14). What does it look like for us to live Spirit-filled lives today? How can we rely on the Spirit to guide and empower us?

## Prayer Prompts

Jesus, thank you that you not only understand what it means to be truly tempted but that you showed us what it looks like to fully depend on the Power of the Spirit and the Word of God to succeed. Strengthen our feeble minds and bodies and wills to more fully trust the Father each day. Amen!

### Looking for more prayer opportunities?

Click [here](#) to be notified about ongoing DCC prayer needs.

Click [here](#) to send in a prayer request.