



Week of March 10, 2019

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,

² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.

⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

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

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying 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 protect you,'

¹¹ and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What was the most useful test you ever prepared for?
- B. Did you ever, or are you currently, giving up something for Lent? Why? What purpose do you think it serves?

Bible Study Questions:

1. How literally do you understand the temptation story? What does "40 days" mean to you?
2. Review the three temptations. What is a brief summary of each temptation? Which would you be mostly likely to fall for?
3. Jesus uses Scripture to refute the devil at every temptation. Talk about a time when you explicitly relied on a passage of Scripture in making a decision.
4. When did a difficult time lead to you discovering something important about yourself?
5. List the various motivations you have to do the right thing? List as many as you can. Then list the motivations that lead you toward doing the wrong thing. Which are the strongest ones in each list?
6. Defining temptation as a lure to depart from what you know is right, what temptation(s) are you dealing with now?
7. What discipline could you challenge yourself to over the remaining weeks of Lent that would help you become a better person?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers for having pure motivations to do the right thing.