



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 6

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Christ overcame temptation and defeated Satan.



MONDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 4:1-4

“Man does not live by bread alone.” Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3 to rebuff Satan. Moses first spoke those words to Israel to remind them of their wanderings in the desert, where God provided manna. God did this, it says, to teach them that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Israel’s wandering in the desert was meant to humble them and to test them to see if they would obey God’s commands. Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy to rebuke Satan and to signal that He would succeed where Israel failed. Jesus passed the test on our behalf.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did Jesus experience the same suffering and hunger we would if we didn’t eat for 40 days? (Yes, Luke is careful to mention that Jesus was hungry. When Satan came to tempt Jesus with earthly bread, Jesus was hungry for the food of the earth, but he answered Satan with a word from heaven!)

How are we easily tempted when we are hungry? (We can become angry when we don't get food, or impatient and ungrateful if it doesn't come as fast as we want it to come.)

PRAY:

Thank God for resisting temptation and defeating Satan on our behalf.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 4:5-8

In Luke 4:8, Jesus said, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve,” quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13. Satan actually asked Jesus to worship him. Israel failed to worship God alone, but Jesus refused Satan’s temptation, rebuking him firmly.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was Satan’s temptation so powerful? (Satan was trying to offer Jesus a shortcut to a kingdom. Instead of paying the price on the cross for the redemption of men, the tempter claimed He could give Jesus an earthly kingdom if he worshipped Satan. Jesus was no ordinary man; He was also God. No ordinary man would have withstood Satan’s temptations, but Jesus stood the test.)

Ask your children if they can think of a time when they were strongly tempted.

PRAY:

Thank God for resisting temptation and making a way for us to have power to resist temptation too.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: HEBREWS 4:15,16

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and passed the test so that we who have failed could receive His righteousness. Now He stands before the Father as our high priest making intercession for us. This He does, full of grace and mercy, knowing the difficulty we face in our battle against sin and temptation. The passages from Luke 4 He quoted in His defense against Satan, are from the account of Israel's wandering in the desert. They wandered for 40 years – grumbling and complaining and ultimately failing. Jesus accomplished in 40 days what they could not in 40 years!

TALK ABOUT IT

What does the word “temptation” mean? (To be tempted is to be enticed or to be drawn to sin. In temptation, either Satan or our sinful nature brings close to us the possibility that we could sin.)

Why should Jesus' experience of temptation be encouraging to us? (Jesus can understand what we are going through when we are tempted, and through the Spirit of God, we, too, can say no to temptation.)

PRAY

Thank Jesus for being willing to be tempted for us. Ask God to help you overcome temptation.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 4:9-13

Satan saved his most devious trick for last. First, he tempted Christ with food and immediate pleasure. Second, he tempted Christ with a shortcut to power. And finally, he tempted Christ with the Word of God. Satan quotes from Psalm 91:11, 12. In short, he told Jesus, If your word is true, prove it. Jesus saw right through Satan's scheme and rebukes him a third time. Jesus does so by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16. Defeated, the devil left Jesus until an opportune time. That time would come when Satan entered Judas' heart, and Judas betrayed Jesus. What Satan did not know was that God is always in control and was even using Satan's manipulations to accomplish His predetermined plan.

TALK ABOUT IT :

Was Satan correct in quoting Scripture? (Yes, Satan was correct. Psalm 91:10-12 was true. God could have called down legions of angels. In Matthew 26:53 Jesus said so Himself when Peter cut off the servant of the high priest's ear. Jesus also said that He would not call down legions of angels, so that the Scriptures could be fulfilled. Isaiah 53:7 tells us that he was led like a lamb to the slaughter and did not open his mouth.)

Can we use the Word of God to overcome temptation? (Yes. Quoting Scripture is a great way for us to fight the lies of Satan and defeat temptation.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would help you study His Word that you might be able to withstand the temptations of sin and the enemy.



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: ISAIAH 61:1-3

After His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus read this passage of Scripture. Jesus attributed the words of Isaiah to Himself, saying, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus had been in the synagogue when other teachers read, but that day Jesus read the scroll. The Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism. Now Jesus had passed the test of Satan’s temptations. With the reading of Isaiah, Jesus uttered a kind of battle cry. The kingdom of God was advancing, and the defeat of Satan and the releasing of his prisoners was drawing nigh.

TALK ABOUT IT

What does this passage say Jesus will do for us? (Jesus will bind up the brokenhearted, free us from captivity, release us from darkness, provide for us, give us a crown of beauty and give us gladness and a garment of praise. In addition we will be called righteous because of the Lord’s work.)

What was holding us captive? (Sin holds unbelievers captive. Romans 6:17, 18 says that when we trust Christ we are freed from the bondage of sin and we become slaves of righteousness.)

PRAY

Pray that God would release you from slavery to sin and make you a willing slave of Christ.