

## The Temptation of Christ

Luke 4:1-13

- Satan tempts Christ, like us, to \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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## QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Sunday we saw how Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Unlike Adam, Israel, and us, Jesus successfully defeated Satan and did not sin. Luke tells us this to establish Jesus as the true Son of God who alone is able to save humanity from their sins. Share a time in which you found yourself in the “wilderness.” What did you learn about yourself and God through the process?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Read Luke 4:1-13 together as a group. Jesus’ first temptation was to trust in himself to work rather than God to provide. Often this temptation is expressed in a desire to control things and is the root idol of fear in our lives. Have you considered this as sin in your life? Share how you fall into the temptation to control and succumb to fear?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Jesus’ second temptation was to short cut God’s plan and escape suffering to receive something God had promised in due time. Satan executes this same ploy on us as well. Discuss how you most often are tempted to take a “short cut” or were most recently tempted to take a “short cut” and took matters into your own hands to receive immediate gratification rather than waiting and trusting God. Confess this sin to God as well as someone else.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Jesus’ third and last temptation was to manipulate God to act. This temptation is often harder and subtler to see in ourselves. Do you find yourself thinking God owes you something? Do you struggle thinking you deserve more than you have? Have you ever asked yourself why bad things happen to good people? Do you see yourself as “good people”? These are all ways we fall into the temptation of trying to manipulate God. Confess your sin of manipulation to God and to someone else.