

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



HEAD

- ✚ Jesus trusted the Father and triumphed over every temptation where Adam and Israel failed – His victory is the Church's victory and qualifies Him to be our standard-bearer.
- ✚ Two glaring, catastrophic mistakes to avoid: denying the existence of the Devil and devaluing the importance of biblical literacy.
- ✚ The Holy Spirit will lead us into times of God's testing and the Devil's tempting. The outcomes are different: God tests us to prove our righteousness, the Devil tempts us to cause us to sin.

– Luke 4:1-13 –



HEART

- ✚ In what ways do you see yourself prioritizing physical or material sustenance over spiritual nourishment, and how might you reorder those priorities?
- ✚ The sermon suggests that 42% of professing Christians either don't believe in the devil or are unsure about his existence. How does denying or downplaying Satan's reality make us more vulnerable to spiritual attack?

– Luke 4:1-13 –



HEART

- ✚ When have you been tempted to take a shortcut to avoid the difficulty of God's path, and what were the consequences of that choice?
- ✚ How does Jesus' response to each temptation with Scripture challenge your own commitment to biblical literacy and memorization?

– Luke 4:1-13 –



HEART

- ✚ Pastor Daryl states that Jesus proved He was not just the Son of God but also the Servant of God. How does this distinction convict or challenge your commitment to His will and way in your decision-making moving forward?
- ✚ What does it reveal about God's character that He allowed Jesus to reach such a depleted state before sending angels to minister to Him, and how does this relate to God's timing in your own life?

– Luke 4:1-13 –



HEART

- ✚ How can you discern whether a difficult situation you're facing is a test from God designed to prove your faithfulness to God or a temptation from the enemy designed to cause you sin?
- ✚ What would it look like in your life to be full of the Spirit but empty of physical comforts, as Jesus was during His temptation?

– Luke 4:1-13 –



HANDS

- ✚ 1. Scripture Memorization Choose one of the three verses Jesus used and memorize it this week:
- ✚ Deuteronomy 8:3 - “Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD”
- ✚ Deuteronomy 6:13 - “Fear the LORD your God, serve him only”
- ✚ Deuteronomy 6:16 - “Do not put the LORD your God to the test”

– Luke 4:1-13 –



HANDS

- ✚ 2. Spiritual Inventory Complete this sentence and journal about it:
“The shortcut I’m most tempted to take right now is...”
- ✚ 3. Fasting Exercise Consider a modified fast this week (skip one meal, fast from social media, etc.) to:
 - ✚ Practice dependence on God rather than immediate gratification
 - ✚ Spend that time in prayer and Scripture reading
 - ✚ Experience in a small way what it means to prioritize spiritual food over physical comfort

– Luke 4:1-13 –



HANDS

- ✚ 4. Temptation Battle Plan Identify your top 2-3 recurring temptations and write out:
 - ✚ The lie the enemy tells you
 - ✚ The truth from Scripture that counters it
 - ✚ A specific verse to memorize for each temptation

– Luke 4:1-13 –



FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



Day 1: Full of the Spirit, Empty of Self

Reading: Luke 4:1-2; Deuteronomy 8:1-3


- ✚ **Devotional:** Jesus left the Jordan “full of the Holy Spirit” yet physically empty after forty days without food. This stunning contrast reveals a profound spiritual truth: we are often reversed – full of food but empty of the Spirit. Jesus’ physical depletion didn’t diminish His spiritual fullness. The wilderness became His classroom where dependence on God’s Word proved more essential than bread. As you face your own wilderness seasons—those depleted, difficult moments—remember that spiritual fullness doesn’t require physical abundance. God’s presence sustains when everything else fails. Today, examine your life: Are you prioritizing spiritual nourishment as much as physical comfort? Jesus shows us that true strength comes not from what fills our stomachs, but from what fills our souls.

– Luke 4:1-13 –



Day 2: Defeating the Enemy with Scripture

Reading: Luke 4:3-4; Psalm 119:9-16

 **Devotional:** When Satan tempted Jesus at His weakest moment, Jesus didn't rely on His divine power – He wielded Scripture. Three times He responded, “It is written,” quoting Deuteronomy to defeat the devil's schemes. This reveals a critical truth: biblical literacy is spiritual warfare. The enemy knows Scripture and will even quote it to deceive us, but Jesus shows us how to rightly apply God's Word. We cannot defeat temptation through willpower alone; we need the sword of the Spirit. If Jesus, the living Word of God, chose to fight with Scripture, how much more do we need it? Commit today to becoming a student of God's Word. Memorize verses that speak to your specific struggles. When temptation comes – and it will – you'll have divine ammunition ready.

– Luke 4:1-13 –



Day 3: The Reality of Our Enemy

Reading: Luke 4:5-8; 1 Peter 5:8-11


✚ **Devotional:** Satan is real, active, and strategic. Yet disturbingly, only 58% of professing Christians believe in the devil's existence. This denial is his greatest advantage—an invisible enemy operates with impunity. Satan offered Jesus a shortcut to kingship, bypassing the cross. He offers us the same: easier paths that avoid sacrifice, shortcuts that compromise integrity, comfort over character. Notice Satan's language—five first-person pronouns in one temptation. The enemy is the ultimate narcissist, and when we become consumed with “me, myself, and I,” we mirror his nature. Jesus responded by affirming that worship belongs to God alone. Today, acknowledge the reality of spiritual warfare. Recognize the enemy's tactics in your life. Where is he offering you shortcuts? Reject his lies and worship God alone.

– Luke 4:1-13 –



Day 4: Testing Versus Tempting

Reading: Luke 4:9-12; James 1:12-18

 **Devotional:** Every circumstance is either God’s test or Satan’s temptation—often both simultaneously, with different sources and outcomes. God tests to prove our faithfulness; Satan tempts to produce our failure. When Satan urged Jesus to leap from the temple, he was saying, “Prove God cares about you.” But Jesus refused to manipulate God or presume upon His protection. We often do the same: “God, if you love me, make this happen my way.” This isn’t faith; it’s control. True sonship isn’t standing above humanity’s struggles but living faithfully within them as servants of God. You are both a child of God and a servant of God. The question isn’t whether God will prove Himself to you, but whether you’ll prove faithful to Him. Today, surrender your need to control outcomes and trust God’s timing and methods.

– Luke 4:1-13 –



Day 5: Victory That Becomes Ours

Reading: Luke 4:13; Romans 8:31-39

✚ **Devotional:** Jesus succeeded where Adam and Israel failed. His triumph in the wilderness qualifies Him alone to be our standard bearer. When the temptations ended, angels came to minister to Jesus – God’s provision arrived exactly on time. Here’s the glorious truth: Jesus’ victory is credited to your account. Every time you fail, His success covers you. Every temptation He overcame strengthens you. You don’t fight for victory; you fight from victory. Satan departed “for a time” – spiritual warfare continues until Christ returns. But you don’t face it alone or powerless. The same Spirit that filled Jesus fills you. The same Word that defeated Satan equips you. Stand firm knowing that greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. Jesus won so you could overcome. Walk today in His triumph, not your own strength.

– Luke 4:1-13 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: “Father, thank You that Jesus succeeded where we so often fail. Thank You that even in His weakest physical condition, He had enough of Your Spirit to overcome every temptation. Help us to be filled with Your Spirit and grounded in Your Word. Give us wisdom to discern between Your tests and the enemy’s temptations. May we respond like Jesus - with Scripture, with trust, and with commitment to Your will, way and work above our own comfort. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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