

- 1) This story concerns Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by Satan, a concept that can sound strange to modern ears. How do you think of Satan as a figure in the Bible? How (if at all) do you think of Satan as an active agent in the world today?
- 2) Jesus faces three temptations in this story: to turn stones into bread, to cast himself down from the temple into the arms of the angels, and to rule over all the kingdoms of the earth. Why do you think Satan tempts Jesus with these three things, in particular? Do you think Christians today face similar temptations? If so, in what way? If not, why not?
- 3) In this passage, both Jesus and Satan quote scripture to support their views: Satan to tempt Jesus and Jesus to refute Satan. What do you think this might tell us about how scripture can be used and misused? What might we learn from this passage about the use of the Bible in our own day?
- 4) Notably, the temptation in the wilderness takes place immediately after Jesus's baptism. How do you understand the relationship between baptism and temptation in the story of Jesus? What do you think of the relationship between baptism and temptation in our own day?