

**Lesson Title:** Jesus in the Wilderness**Scripture Focus:** Luke 4:17-19**The Lesson in Context**

Jesus' method for winning in the wilderness instructs us well. He responded by quoting Scripture, which was more than just reciting God's Word. He was fully dependent on and obedient to the Word of God. God promised that faithfulness to and humility before Him would cause life to flourish. Why? Because the words of the Lord are good and because the God of covenant—the giver of Scripture—would uphold those who trust in Him by keeping His word.

Thankfully we are not left alone to keep the commands of God, something Israel struggled to do throughout its history. God has empowered us. While no work of God excuses laziness in serving Him, we are given every bit of strength we need through His Spirit. God's Spirit teaches truth (John 16:13), offers wisdom (I Corinthians 2:10-16), strengthens us (Ephesians 3:16-17), gives us joy and peace (Romans 14:17-18), and provides everything we need to live for God faithfully (II Peter 1:3). By depending on God's grace in the forms of His Word and His Spirit, we can win in the wilderness.

**Group Discussion**

1. How does Jesus' victory in the wilderness give you personal confidence to win your battles against temptation?
2. How can we be sure we don't presume to know all about Jesus and lose out on what He wants to do as the sovereign God of creation?
3. If you have ever softened the truth or refused to tell the truth because of the possible consequences, how did you feel afterward?
4. What does Jesus' method of answering John tell us about how the Lord viewed His own ministry?
5. What are some specific ways we can bring God's covenant promises to those in our sphere of influence?

**My Prayer for the Upcoming Week**

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?

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