GOD WITH US

Tempted Like US

October 25th, 2026

Matthew (Convincing the Jews that Jesus was the Savior) and Luke (Convincing the Gentiles that Jesus was the Savior) both tell us about Jesus' temptation by the devil. Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit for 40 days. While He was in the wilderness, Jesus fasted (didn't eat anything), and the devil tempted him with every temptation. At the end of the 40 days, Jesus became Hungry. Both Gospels list three things that the devil says to Jesus. Each temptation tests a different part of Jesus.

The test of the human: **Matt 4:3-4, Luke 4:3-4.** The devil sees that Jesus is hungry and tells Jesus, "Turn those stones into bread." The devil wants Jesus to use His power for personal gain. His human body is hungry, and He could have turned anything in creation into food. Jesus replies, *" Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."* This is a quote from Deuteronomy. Jesus is saying that if we constantly fill our fleshly hunger, we will never be satisfied. If you eat breakfast, do you get hungry for lunch? Sometimes we might skip lunch, but do we get hungry for dinner? Just like our stomachs get hungry for food, we can get hungry (desire) for things. You get a new toy, and it's the best thing. It's your favorite, until you see a different toy and you become "hungry" for the thing you don't have yet. *Man shall not live on bread alone* (because he will always be hungry again), *but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.* If we focus on trusting and following what God has promised us, we will always be filled. Our body will still be hungry, but our spirit will be filled and at peace

The Test of the Spirit **Matt 4:5-7, Luke 4:9-12** The second temptation listed in Matthew. The devil takes Jesus to the very top of the temple in Jerusalem. The devil says to Jesus, Throw yourself from the top of the temple, and the angels will catch you. The devil quotes Scripture to Jesus. **Matt V6** The devil wants Jesus to prove that He is the Son of God. Do this impossible thing that no human could survive, and the angels will save you. The devil is testing Jesus as God. Jesus again replies with Scripture. **Matt 4:7**: Do not put the Lord your God to the test. Do not test God. We are told to trust God. If Jesus had thrown Himself off of the temple, He would not have trusted God.

The Test of power **Matthew 4:8-10; Luke 4:5-8** The devil shows Jesus all of the kingdoms of the World across all time. (All of the humans and human power the people Jesus came to save, the people who have turned away from God and turned to sin) The devil said Worship me, and I will give you all of the power and control I have over all of this. Satan has power and control here on earth. He has the power to tempt people and get them to turn away from God. Jesus replies with another scripture, "You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." Humans are designed to worship, but frequently we worship the wrong things. Anything that you put higher than God is an Idol. If you know more about a sports team or an athlete than you know verses or stories in the Bible, then you have an idol. If you spend more time playing games or talking with friends than you go praying and talking with God, you are worshiping something other than God.

Gospel connection: The devil tempts us with these same temptations that Jesus was given. The difference is that we fail and give in to the temptation. We sin, but Jesus never sinned. Because Jesus was tempted with every temptation and never sinned, He was the only one who could be the sacrifice for our sins. The payment for sin is death. Jesus never sinned, so He didn't have to pay, but He chose to die for you and me. We deserve our punishment, but Jesus took that punishment for us and offers us forgiveness. God wants to have a relationship with you. All we need to do is accept the free gift that is offered to us. Romans 10:9 ***If we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord.*** We understand that we are sinners, and we can't wipe away our dirty sin; only Jesus can. We say out loud that I am wrong, and Jesus is the only one who forgives me. Jesus is the only one I want to follow and obey. ***Believe in your Heart that God raised Him from the Dead.*** If you believe in your heart (not the thing in your chest pushing blood around your body) with all of you, all of your ideas, your thoughts, your wants, your emotions. If you believe with your Heart that Jesus, who never sinned, was raised from the dead, and that your sins are forgiven by His blood. You will be saved.

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November 1st, 2026

Small Group Questions

Lower Elementary

1. Where did Jesus go?
2. How long was He there?
3. Did Jesus eat?
4. What was the first thing the deceiver told Jesus to do? What was Jesus' answer?
5. What was the second thing the deceiver told Jesus to do? What was Jesus' answer?
6. What was the final thing the deceiver told Jesus to do? What was Jesus' answer?
7. What can we learn from Jesus' answers? How do we fight temptations when they happen in our lives?

Upper Elementary

1. Where was Jesus? What does that imply? (Mark 1:12-13)
2. How long did Jesus fast? What is a fast?
3. What was the first listed temptation that Jesus endured? What was satan testing? What was Jesus' reply?
4. What was the second temptation? What was satan testing? What was Jesus' reply?
5. What was the third temptation? What was satan testing? What was Jesus reply?
6. What did Jesus use in all three interactions?
7. What can we learn about fighting temptations from Jesus' example?
8. According to Luke, how many temptations did Jesus endure?

Activity 1: Draw the story (Use Matthew 4 for this activity)

Give the students a blank piece of paper. Have them divide it into three parts. Starting with the left side, have students draw something that represents the first temptation we read about. In the middle part, have students draw something that represents the second temptation. Do the same for the last temptation on the right-hand side. On the back of the page, have students draw what they think the angels brought to Jesus as they ministered to Him or what they think that scene looked like.

Activity 2: Flee from temptation.

Have students stand in a circle. The leader will be in the center. The leader will close their eyes and spin in one direction. (or remain stationary) The rest of the students will walk around the circle in the opposite direction. When the teacher says stop, the leader will point in front of them. The student on the outside edge will need to say a Bible verse or list a promise God gives us. If they are unable to, they are eliminated.

Connection: Jesus used the word of God to fight temptation. When we have God's word hidden, we can use it like a shield. Ephesians 6: The full armor of God is dependent on our knowledge of Scripture. Lack of defence will make us easier to attack.

Activity 3: Sword drills

Psalm 119:11, Matthew 26:41, Proverbs 1:10, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Proverbs 4:14–15, Ephesians 6:11, Proverbs 7:25, 2 Timothy 2:22, James 4:7.

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DIGGING DEEPER

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WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

1. Luke 9:23: If we wish to follow Jesus, what 2 things do we have to do?
2. Luke 9:23 What does it mean to deny ourselves and take up his cross daily?
3. Matthew 4:1 Who led Jesus into the wilderness? Why?
4. Matthew 4:2 How long did Jesus fast? Was He hungry?
5. Matthew 4:3-4 How did the devil tempt Him? How did Jesus answer him?
6. Read Deuteronomy 8:3
7. Matthew 4:5-7 How did the devil tempt Him? What did the devil quote? How did Jesus answer him?
8. Read Psalm 91:11-12 and Deuteronomy 6:16
9. The devil uses the Word of God out of context; does he fool Jesus?
10. Matthew 4:8-9: How did the devil tempt Him?
11. Matthew 4:10: What did Jesus tell the devil to do? What did Jesus quote?
12. Read Deuteronomy 6:13 and 1 Samuel 12:24
13. Matthew 4:11 Who left Him? Who attended to Him?

MEMORY VERSE: **Luke 9:23** And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.