

Tests to Triumph



TESTS TO TRIUMPH

BIBLE STUDY LESSONS
FOR C.O.R.E. GROUP
DISCIPLESHIP



EVERY NATION
ABU DHABI

LET'S START

Overcoming our Adversary

- Share a dish you cannot resist eating. What makes it irresistible to you?
- Who is your favorite villain in any story/movie? Why?

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

MATTHEW 4:1-11 NIV

The Spirit of God led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted after His baptism. The temptations of Jesus were essential for the redemption of man's fall in the garden (see also Genesis 3). This time, Jesus triumphed over evil.

Interestingly, the Greek words for "temptation" and "test" share a similar meaning. However, God does not tempt man to do evil. Rather, He uses testing to reveal our character that He intends to refine. Jesus, divine and man, had finished fasting for forty days and forty nights. He was tempted by the devil in His physical weakness, and yet was able to successfully resist the enemy.

Jesus can empathize with our temptations because He too experienced temptation. Our assurance is that God is faithful to help us in our weakness. He will enable us to overcome as we submit to Him.

What promise from God's Word are you holding on to in this season, and why?

How do we overcome the devil, our adversary?

1. By knowing the Word.

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

MATTHEW 4:4,7,10

The devil mastered God's Word enough to distort it. However, Jesus knew God's Word by heart. The phrase "it is written" appeared thrice in the passage. Every time the devil twists the Word, Jesus confronted him with the Truth.

2. By trusting the Word.

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⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

MATTHEW 4:4,7,10

In early Jewish tradition, memorizing the Torah and the Scriptures were obligatory. Having grown up in synagogues (see Luke 2:46-52), Jesus was an expert in the Word of God. However, He not only knew it in His head; He also trusted it in His heart.

Why do you think it's hard for you to trust God's Word at times?

3. By walking the Word.

¹⁵ *"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—*

¹⁶ *the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."*

MATTHEW 4:15,16

Jesus' life, death and resurrection fulfilled many prophecies in the Old Testament about God's redemption of all people. By aligning Himself with the will of the Father, Jesus walked in faithful obedience throughout His earthly life.

What does "walk the Word" mean to you?

4. By spreading the Word.

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

MATTHEW 4:17

After Jesus' temptation, He began His earthly ministry of proclaiming the message of God's Kingdom. It is not enough to know God's Word. As His people, let us spread His message of salvation to those who have not yet believed.

To whom do you want to spread God's Word, and why?

5. By keeping the Word.

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

LUKE 4:13

Interestingly, Luke's account of the temptation of Jesus ended with "opportune time," which means "a time that is convenient or likely to produce success" (ref Cambridge Dictionary). Testing does not happen only once. Even if we have successfully resisted, the devil will wait for an opportune time to tempt us again (see 1 Peter 5:8). Therefore we must stay guarded at all times by keeping the Word by growing in it.

How can our CORE Group help you stay guarded at times of testing?

LET'S PRAY

- Pray for God to deliver you in your area/s of struggle. Ask for His help and victory to overcome the devil.
- Pray for God's Word to be rooted deeply in your heart. Ask for the willingness to be transformed by the Word daily.

LET'S APPLY

- *Have a conversation with someone you trust in the church community (i.e., CG leader or accountable partners) and share a personal struggle you are facing. Ask them to walk with you in discipleship.*
- *This week, ask God to lead you to someone who needs encouragement from God's Word.*

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