
Lesson Overview

Biblical Passage	Luke 4:1-13
Supporting Passage	Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13
Memory Verse	2 Timothy 3:16-17
Table Talk Question	Did Jesus experience every possible temptation?
Biblical Truth	Jesus overcame temptation by responding appropriately with the Word of God.
Context	<p>Jesus' temptation is included in Matthew, Mark and Luke. His temptations are reminiscent of Israel's wilderness journey (Dt. 6-8). Like Jesus, the Hebrew people experienced many tests. Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness paralleled Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Once Jesus overcame these temptations, He began His ministry to the people of Israel.</p>
Learning Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will explore the methods Satan used to tempt Jesus.• Students will consider how they can use the steps Jesus took to overcome temptation.
Prayer Suggestions	<p>As you prepare to teach this lesson, pray for your students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray that students will understand that the enemy is actively tempting them.• Pray that students will become more like Christ in the ways that they resist temptation.• Pray that students will hide God's Word in their hearts as a weapon against temptation.

Biblical Commentary

Investigation

After His baptism, Jesus continued to prepare for His time of ministry. He went into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Although Jesus was tempted throughout His time in the wilderness, only three specific temptations are recorded for us. These occurred after Jesus had fasted for 40 days, at which time Satan tempted Him with special comforts and eternal power. Jesus met each temptation with truth from Scripture, exposing Satan's deceit and triumphing over temptation.

Importance

Jesus' time of temptation demonstrates that **The Bible is God's Word**. This passage of Scripture is important because it emphasizes the power of Scripture even in the life of Jesus Himself. Jesus hungered, a human feeling (v. 4), and Satan used these desires to try to tempt Jesus (vv. 3, 6, 9). Yet three separate times Jesus used God's Word to refute Satan's temptations. Believers can have confidence in facing their own temptations by knowing Jesus encountered every temptation they will ever have. Believers should live their lives by resisting temptation and striving to be holy.

Interpretation

Luke 4:1 Luke drew a deliberate distinction between Adam and Jesus. Adam could not resist Satan's temptation even though he was in the paradise of the Garden of Eden. Jesus, however, resisted every temptation, even in the unfavorable conditions of the wilderness.

Luke mentioned the Spirit of God twice in this verse. First, Luke said Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit." Following Jesus' baptism (Lk. 3:21-23), the Holy Spirit descended on Him as a dove. This was the Father's sign that Jesus was in fact the Messiah. This was a significant event in Jesus' earthly life.

Second, Luke said that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Throughout the history of Israel, God spoke to His servants—including Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and John—in the wilderness. Jesus' time in the wilderness was an experience He shared with some of God's greatest servants.

The temptations Jesus faced made clear what type of Messiah He would be. Throughout Jesus' ministry, people hoped He would be the military leader who would overthrow the Roman government and restore the Jews to their place of prominence in the world. Satan would tempt Jesus to be the kind of Messiah the people wanted, encouraging Jesus to try to earn the people's love instead of following God's plan.

The desert or wilderness where Jesus was tempted was most likely not full of sand and cacti. It was probably a

rocky, mountainous area. Traditionally this wilderness is believed to be an area northeast of Jericho, a few miles from the place of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. Only "wild animals" inhabited the area (Mk.1:13).

Luke 4:2 Luke recorded that Jesus was tempted by the devil (referred to as Satan in Mk. 1:13) for 40 days. The Greek word indicates that the temptations were continuous, meaning the temptations came in an ongoing barrage. Throughout history, some have claimed that if Jesus were God in the flesh He could not have sinned by giving into temptation. Such statements deny His humanity. Jesus was fully God and fully human. In becoming a man, God subjected Himself to the trials of humanity, which are otherwise incompatible with His deity (Phil. 2:5-11). We know, for example, it is impossible for the Eternal God to die. However, Christ not only could die, He actually did. Furthermore, we might ask whether God can be in need of anything. God is completely sufficient in Himself. Yet in Jesus, God placed Himself in need of human requirements for life—food, water, clothing, and shelter.

The Bible teaches that God cannot be tempted by evil (Jas. 1:13). Yet as Christ, He was tempted. He had the capacity to yield to temptation just as the rest of humanity does. As people and even Christ Himself resist temptation, Satan often increases His attack before "departing." Yet Christ claimed the victory, enduring all without sin (Heb. 4:15).

Luke 4:3 The devil tempted Jesus to feed Himself by using His power to turn rocks into bread. The devil may have been suggesting God the Father would not provide for His Son. Perhaps the tempter was even suggesting Jesus could not accomplish the Father's purposes if He died from starvation before His ministry began.

The devil's words—"If you are the Son of God"—at first glance seem to suggest that he doubted Jesus was actually God's Son. The Greek sentence structure, however, presents the statement as truth—it should be understood as "Since you are the Son of God." Satan's words are intended to be a challenge for Jesus to prove He is the Son. The devil and his subordinates know the true identity of Jesus (Lk. 8:28). Unfortunately, this knowledge does not lead them to repentance (Jas. 2:19).

Luke 4:4 Jesus refused to perform an act that was inconsistent with God's purpose. Instead, Jesus responded to the devil with the authority of God's Word. Quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3, Jesus proclaimed that man is to live on every word that comes from the mouth of God. "Bread alone" is not enough. Jesus was not downplaying the need for food; He was pointing out the greater need for God's Word. Jesus trusted God to provide for His physical needs.

Luke 4:5-7 For the second temptation, the devil took Jesus "to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world." Some translations indicate this was a mountain, but it is difficult to imagine any mountain from which every earthly kingdom could be viewed. The highest mountain in the region is Mount Hermon, which stands less than 10,000 feet tall. From that mountain, parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia could be seen. Some have suggested that seeing these areas from Mount Hermon could have been a reminder of the vast power found in the various kingdoms throughout the world.

Regardless of how the kingdoms were shown, the devil's temptation related to Jesus' ambition. The temptation was for Jesus to bypass the cross and instantly become ruler over the world through an easier route—one that didn't require Him to suffer or die. This would, however, involve worshiping Satan rather than obeying God.

Luke 4:8 Jesus never flinched. He knew Satan to be a liar and a deceiver. Again, Jesus used Scripture to counterattack. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13 to show that only God is worthy of worship and that He alone is to be served. With these words, Jesus emphasized that He would obey only God regardless of what it cost Him. Jesus chose God's plan; He would invite humanity into His Kingdom through their trust in His sacrificial love.

Luke 4:9-11 Next, Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem to the highest point of the Temple. Perhaps he took Jesus to a point that overlooked the Kidron Valley more than 400 feet below. The devil himself used a portion of Scripture in his third temptation. Satan used Psalm 91:11-12 to try to persuade Jesus to test God.

Many Jews believed the Messiah would suddenly appear in the Temple area in some spectacular manner (Mal. 3:1-2). Jesus could have gained great recognition had He jumped dramatically off the Temple and landed unharmed in the valley below. Yet following the devil's temptation would have tested God's goodness. When Satan quoted from God's Word, he did so to further his own purposes. Satan's quote left out a significant part of the psalm, the last part of verse 11. The devil was suggesting that Jesus could force God to act by relying on a promise in Scripture even though the conditions of the promise were ignored. The psalm depicts someone walking along a rocky path without getting hurt.

Luke 4:12 Jesus again quoted Scripture (Dt. 6:16) to expose Satan's complete distortion and misuse of Scripture. Satan's purpose was to provoke Jesus into testing God by forcing God to prove Himself. According to Jesus, this was not the purpose of Psalm 91. Never is anyone to test God by requiring Him to prove Himself. God is to be trusted and obeyed.

Luke 4:13 The phrase "all this tempting" can be translated "every kind of temptation." The phrase implies a variety of temptations beyond just the three mentioned by the gospel writers. Jesus faced all types of temptations that were characteristic of those faced by every human being. Hebrews 4:15 records that Jesus was "tempted in every way, just as we are." Yet even in the wilderness, when He was weak and weary, Jesus did not give in to temptation.

Matthew recorded that Jesus commanded Satan to leave following this last temptation (Mt. 4:10). Luke's words are a reminder that Satan did not leave permanently but returned again at an "opportune time." Satan followed this pattern during Jesus' ministry, but Jesus remained completely faithful to God.

Implications

Students face temptation every day. They may be facing such temptations as overeating, smoking, cheating, stealing, Internet pornography, gambling, and much more. Even the way students respond to aggressive drivers on the road can be an opportunity to sin. And every time students face these temptations, they may wonder if they have the power to resist them.

Through examination of how the devil tempted Jesus, students will see the tactics of the devil and be ready to face temptation when it comes. Satan tempts students when they are most susceptible, even at times of a spiritual high. Jesus showed believers how to face the temptations of the devil with the Word of God. Encourage your students to realize they can, like Jesus, be prepared with the memorized Word to combat the evil one. Because Jesus is God's Son, students can trust Him to know how to defeat the devil, and can follow His pattern as He faced temptation without sinning.

Teaching Plan

Connect

Review Questions

(5-8 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will answer five review questions from the previous lesson.

Print one copy of the "Review Questions" activity sheet for your use.

After greeting students, use the review questions to test what they can recall from the previous lesson as well as to provide the context for today's lesson.

Master Teacher Option: Tempted By?

(10 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will identify what tempts them and how to avoid it.

Provide a dry erase board and marker.

On the board, write the following list:

- **Chocolate**
- **Video Games**
- **Shopping**
- **Gossip**
- **Pizza**
- **Netflix (binge watching)**
- **Skipping school**
- **Tickets to a concert**
- **Social Media**

Read each item on the list one at a time. After each word is read, ask: **Who is tempted by this?**

Encourage students to raise their hands. Write the number of hands raised next to each temptation. After students have responded to the entire list of temptations, point out which item seemed to cause the most temptation for them. Ask: **What makes something tempting?** After responses, ask: **How do you resist temptations?**

After discussion, share that today, students will be looking at temptation at its most critical moment: between Satan and Christ Himself.

Explore

Master Teacher Key Study: His Victory Over Temptation

(15-20 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will study Luke 4:1-13 to explore the methods Satan used to tempt Jesus.

Print one copy of the Master Teacher Key Study for your use. Provide a copy of the Student Worksheet and a pen for each student.

Learning Goal: Students will explore the methods Satan used to tempt Jesus.

Pass out pens and copies of the Student Worksheet. Then, use the Master Teacher Key Study to teach Luke 4:1-13.

Transform

Deeper Discussion

(10 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will discuss how they can use the steps Jesus took to overcome temptation.

Learning Goal: Students will consider how they can use the steps Jesus took to overcome temptation.

Use the following questions to lead students to discuss how they can use the steps Jesus took to overcome temptation.

- **Does the devil tempt you in some of the same ways he tempted Jesus? How do you respond?**
- **When are believers most vulnerable to the devil's temptation?**
- **What are some specific steps you can take to help overcome temptation?**
- **Share about a time when you recently faced temptation and won. Did you use the Word of God to do it? Which verses were helpful?**

After discussion, point out that we will face temptations constantly in our lives. Say: **Some temptations are easy to avoid; others pull on us so hard that it seems impossible to avoid them. Some temptations, if allowed in our lives, have the potential to change our lives.** Lead students in prayer, asking that God will help them recognize temptations when they come, and then help students to avoid or ignore the temptations rather than allowing the temptations to have control over them.

Master Teacher Option: Twisted Traits

(10 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will discuss the importance of choosing God's way when faced with temptation.

Provide a copy of "Twisted Traits" activity sheet and a pen for each student.

Learning Goal: Students will consider how they can use the steps Jesus took to overcome temptation.

Distribute pens and copies of the "Twisted Traits" activity sheet to students. Explain that the first two columns on the left illustrate a character trait or a creation of God and examples from Scripture. Explain that the last column expresses some ways that Satan twists these traits and creations into evil. Read the first trait or creation, and then enlist a student to read the Scripture listed. Emphasize how Satan has taken a trait or creation of God and twisted it into the evil listed in the last column. Ask: **When we are tempted with what is listed in this last column, why should we choose God's way?** Allow students to respond. Continue in the same manner with each of the traits or creations listed.

When students have completed the discussion, point out that when we choose God's way, we are allowing God's Word and character to shine through in our lives. Lead students in prayer, thanking God that through Scripture we can know His character and how to respond to temptation in order to allow others to see Christ through us.

Take Home Activity

Family Devotion

(10-15 minutes at home, easy set-up)

Distribute copies of the Family Devotion to students and encourage them to share the devotion with their family.

A copy of the Family Devotion will be included in your lesson PDF download.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

(5-8 minutes, easy set-up)

Use these questions to review the content from Lesson 7: "His Baptism"
The correct answer for each question is printed in bold, italic font.

- Who baptized Jesus?
 - John the Baptist***
 - John the Apostle
 - John Legend
 - Paul the Apostle
- Jesus was baptized _____.
 - at the Temple.
 - in the Sea of Galilee.
 - in the Jordan River.***
 - in His home in Nazareth.
- Why did John the Baptist protest when Jesus said that He wanted to be baptized?
 - Jesus was his cousin.
 - He felt unworthy to baptize the Messiah.***
 - The water was too dirty.
 - The Pharisees would punish John.
- Immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of _____.
 - a rainbow
 - manna
 - a lightning bolt
 - a dove***
- After Jesus was baptized, God spoke from heaven. What did He say?
 - "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."***
 - "It is finished."
 - "I will make you the father of many nations."
 - "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you."

HIS VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and any of the corresponding activities to share the Biblical Truth with students.

Introduction: What kinds of things pose the greatest temptations in your life? Are you tempted by things like designer clothes or high-tech gadgets? Are you tempted by the possibility of holding power over other people? Do your greatest temptations present themselves in the context of doing whatever it takes to be popular? The temptations common in teenage years can be difficult to resist. Fortunately, teenagers who follow Christ have help in resisting those temptations, because they know that Jesus understands how they feel when facing temptations. In today's lessons, we're reminded that Jesus is fully God, but He was also fully human. Therefore, Jesus was completely susceptible to the temptations that Satan put before Him. Luke explains how Jesus responded to three specific temptations.

1. Satan tempts people to ignore God's Word for the sake of provision (Luke 4:1-4).

Biblical Background: Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He was tempted by the devil (vv. 1-2). Satan knew that Jesus was hungry after forty days of fasting. Therefore, Satan tempted Jesus to use His divine power to turn a stone into bread (v. 3). Because Satan knew how vulnerable Jesus was at that time, Satan tempted Jesus to supernaturally provide for His hunger instead of depending upon God to provide for His needs. Jesus resisted the temptation and responded with the Word of God (v. 4).

Illustration: Superheroes always have at least one weakness. For instance, Superman crumbles in weakness when he is around kryptonite. An attack from his enemies is most effective when he is weakened by kryptonite. Similarly, Satan often waits for an opportune time to tempt us so that we are weak and likely to give in.

Application: Although having needs is a part of being human, they can often be a source of temptation for us. Attempting to act apart from God to meet our needs can lead us into sin. Remembering Scripture can remind us of God's provision.

2. Satan tempts people to reject God's worship for the sake of power (Luke 4:5-8).

Biblical Background: Satan blatantly questioned Jesus' commitment to follow and worship God alone by offering Jesus control over the world if He would worship Satan instead (vv. 5–7). Jesus resisted the temptation and responded with the Word of God (v. 8). By not giving in to this temptation, Jesus demonstrated that He valued God above all things, even to the point of suffering.

Illustration: In Iran, converting to any religion from Islam is a crime. Currently, converts can be prosecuted and face jail time in addition to being denied the freedom to worship. In early 2008, the president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, even recommended that a law be passed that imposed a death penalty for anyone who converts from Islam to another religion—including Christianity.

Application: Temptation can often bring us to a crisis of faith. We must choose to definitively follow Christ or to follow our own desires. By choosing to follow Christ, we obey God and bring Him the worship that He deserves.

3. Satan tempts people to trade God's wisdom for the sake of popularity (Luke 4:9-13).

Description: Satan encouraged Jesus to test God, which would ultimately point to disbelief in God's goodness and disregard toward God's requirements for people (vv. 9–11). Jesus resisted the temptation and responded with the Word of God (v. 12). Throughout this passage, Jesus responded to temptation in a way that demonstrates that **The Bible is God's Word**. The devil left Jesus until another time (v. 13).

Illustration: The author of *Student Life Application Bible* wrote, "Christ's defeat of Satan was decisive but not final. Throughout His ministry, Jesus would confront Satan in many forms. Too often we see temptation as a once-and-for-all proposition. In reality we need to be constantly on guard against the devil's on-going attack" (*Student Life Application Bible NLT*, p. 974).

Application: These three temptations were only a few of the temptations that Satan threw at Jesus. Despite Satan's barrage of temptations, Jesus stood firm against the attacks because He knew that God alone had the true power.

Conclusion: Satan tempted Jesus with promises of material possessions, power, and popularity. We are all tempted, often for the sake of gaining things, power, or popularity. We are often tempted to ignore, reject, or test God to obtain what we do not need. We can stand against temptation by following the example Jesus gave us. Just as Jesus stood against the temptation of the devil by using the Word of God, so can we overcome temptation by relying on God's Word.

LESSON 8

HIS VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

Biblical Passage: Luke 4:1-13

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

1. Satan tempts people to ignore God’s _____ for the sake of provision (Luke 4:1-4).
2. Satan tempts people to reject God’s _____ for the sake of power (Luke 4:5-8).
3. Satan tempts people to trade God’s _____ for the sake of popularity (Luke 4:9-13).

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Does the devil tempt you in some of the same ways he tempted Jesus? How do you respond?
- When are believers most vulnerable to the devil’s temptation?
- What are some specific steps you can take to help overcome temptation?
- Share about a time when you recently faced temptation and won. Did you use the Word of God to do it? Which verses were helpful?

JESUS AND TEMPTATION

WHAT’S THE TEMPTATION?	WHAT DID THE TEMPTATION SYMBOLIZE?	WHAT’S JESUS’S RESPONSE?	WHAT’S THAT MEAN?
1			1
2			2
3			3

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .

“I can resist anything except temptation.” —*Oscar Wilde*

LESSON 8

HIS VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

TWISTED TRAITS

GOD'S CHARACTER OR CREATION	REVEALED IN GOD'S WORD	WHY CHOOSE GOD'S WAY?	SATAN'S TWISTING OF GOD'S CHARACTER OR CREATION
Love	1 John 4:7-8		selfishness
Sex	Genesis 2:23-25, 1 Corinthians 6:19		sexuality outside of marriage/lust/pornography /immodesty
Faithfulness	Hebrews 10:23		disloyalty, unreliable
Care For Needy	James 1:27, 1 John 3:17-19		only looking out for myself
Relationships	Genesis 1:26, 2:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12		independence, distrust, disharmony

LESSON 8

HIS VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

Biblical Passage: Luke 4:1-13

In the early part of the classic movie *Star Wars*, R2-D2 ran away from the homestead. Luke Skywalker and C-3PO arose early the next morning to search for R2-D2, using Luke's landspeeder to travel the vast desert wilderness. This wilderness, a dry and rocky terrain, was similar to the desert or wilderness that Jesus where the Holy Spirit led Jesus following His baptism. And in this desert, Jesus endured some pretty intense temptations posed by the devil.

Read Luke 4:1–13. The temptation Jesus faced was not a casual temptation, such as the temptation to cheat on a diet. This was a real life-changing temptation. Jesus was coming off the spiritual high of His baptism experience, where the voice of God spoke from heaven and claimed Jesus as His son. He was then led by the Holy Spirit to an arid wasteland to be tested. For forty days, Jesus did not eat. Have you ever wondered what it feels like not eating for forty days? Weakness had to set in, leaving Jesus very vulnerable. In need of comfort, Jesus could have bailed at any moment. But He did not. He did not settle for a quick end to His ordeal, but trusted God, using the words from Scripture to defend the attack.

Hebrews 4:15 says Jesus was tempted like us in every way. In essence, Jesus knows the struggles we face. Like Jesus, we can resist Satan's schemes. By depending on the Holy Spirit and trusting in God's Word, we are able to stay strong in the face of the devil's temptations.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

- What are some temptations that are unique to each stage of life? (*Examples could be for adults the temptation to lie to a supervisor or boss; for teens to be tempted to cheat on a quiz.*)
- How did Jesus deal with Satan's temptations?
- Why did Jesus rely on God's Word as His response to Satan's temptations?
- How can we make Scripture memorization a part of our daily lives so we can be better equipped to resist the temptations of Satan?