

Spring 2019!

Life Group Quarter

Week 5

Message Date 5/5/19

MY STORY

- 1) Which is your favorite season: winter, spring, summer, or fall, and why?
- 2) What was your takeaway from last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

The Goal

This week we will be unpacking the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. In this passage we see Satan attacking different pieces of Jesus' identity. The Goal this week is to learn from Jesus' example about how to fight and also to learn about Satan's tactics so we can be better prepared. We will be mixing the study with the application more than normal this week, so the *Digging Deeper* and *Taking It Home* sections will be combined.

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 4:1-11(ESV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

" 'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

" 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and
" 'On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall 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 glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

" 'You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. ⁱ

4) What is Jesus doing in the wilderness, and who led Him there?

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights . . .”

5) What does it mean to fast, and what type of fast did Jesus do?

It means to sacrifice something such as food, TV, social media, etc. to get closer to God. In Jesus' case, His fast was food.

6) Have you ever done any type of fast? If so, what was it and what was it like?

7) What is the first question Satan asked Jesus?

“If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

8) What is Satan attacking in Jesus?

His identity. “If you are the son of God” is meant to shake Jesus' confidence in who He is. Second, Satan is attacking Jesus' trust in the Father's provision. Remember, Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to fast, so it is about Jesus trusting the Father to provide for Him.

9) How has Satan attacked your identity as a child of God? If so, what was that like, and what can you do to defend yourself?

10) What is Jesus' response to Satan's first temptation?

“It is written,

“ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

11) It is important to note that Jesus uses the Word of God to respond. What is Jesus saying about His relationship to the father?

He trusts the Father and that even though He is hungry, He will be provided for.

12) What is the second temptation for Jesus?

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and

“ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

13) This is an important thought for us to know about the tactics of Satan in our lives. What does Satan use to tempt Jesus?

He misuses God's word to tempt Jesus. The Bible is taken out of context, and Satan is also attacking Jesus's identity in His relationship with the Father.

14) What is Jesus' response to Satan's second temptation?

“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

15) Have you ever felt the desire to put God to the test? What was it?

One of the key lessons Jesus is teaching us is to trust the Father and His plan regardless of our feelings. Many times we feel negative emotions, so we are tempted to test God because of our feelings.

16) How can we trust the Father on a deeper level?

17) What is Satan's third temptation of Jesus?

“ . . . the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

18) What is at the heart of this temptation?

The temptation is to trade suffering for instant gratification and glory. It is also to distrust God's plan. It's also the temptation to short-circuit the process.

- 19) Have you ever been tempted to short-circuit the process God is taking you through?
- 20) One of the examples Jesus is demonstrating is trusting in the Father in the face of suffering. How do you respond to suffering in your life?
- 21) How does God want us to respond to struggle in our lives?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reread Matthew 4:1-11 and think about the following questions:

- 22) How have you been tempted to believe the lie about your identity in Christ?
- 23) How can you more quickly recognize the temptations in your life?
- 24) What Bible passages can you memorize to help you better defeat these temptations?
- 25) What can you do differently as a result of this week's study?

ⁱ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 4:1–11.