

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus is Tempted

Matthew 4:1-11

### Opening

- Gathering: What types of temptations do people have the most difficulty resisting?
- Today's Focus: God prepared and tested Jesus at the beginning of His ministry by allowing Satan to tempt Him with the most powerful of human temptations. Jesus showed how we can resist temptations by looking to God's Word for strength.
- Key Verses: *He had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might ... make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.* Hebrews 2:17-18
- We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.* Hebrews 4:15

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Jesus Starts His Ministry (*Luke 3:21-23*)

- How old was Jesus when He began His ministry?  
Luke 3:23a
- What is significant about this age?  
Numbers 4:46-49
- What did Jesus do to kick off His ministry?  
Luke 3:21
- Did Jesus need to be cleansed through baptism for a fresh start in ministry?  
Matthew 3:13-15
- What was the most important thing that happened at Jesus' baptism?  
Luke 3:22
- What was one reason that the Spirit appeared physically?  
John 1:32-34
- Besides being empowered for ministry, what else happened as the Spirit descended on Jesus?  
Luke 4:18, 21

Jesus - The New Israel (*Mark 1:10-13*)

- What was the first and most important thing the Spirit had for Jesus to do?  
Mark 1:12
- How long was He in the desert and what happened to Him there?  
Mark 1:13
- How did Matthew first show Jesus as the new Israel?  
Matthew 2:14-15
- How did Jesus being led into the desert by the Spirit compare with Israel?  
Exodus 13:17-18
- How was Jesus likewise armed for battle?  
Mark 1:10-11

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Jesus - The New Israel – In the Wilderness (*Mark 1:10-13*)

How did Jesus' 40 days of testing in the desert point to Israel?

Joshua 5:6

How did the old Israel respond to temptations it experienced in the desert?

Exodus 32:1-4

How did God protect Israel from wild animals in the desert as He did later for Jesus?

Numbers 21:7-9

How was the original Israel also attended by angels?

Exodus 23:20

Jesus Tempted (*Matthew 4:1*)

Why did the Spirit lead Jesus into the desert?

Matthew 4:1

Did God tempt Jesus?

Job 1:9-12

Does God tempt His people to test them?

James 1:13

Can temptations lead to growing in maturity and becoming more complete?

James 1:14-15

How do we know when we are being tested by God or tempted by Satan?

James 1:16-17

Why Does God Test? (*Deuteronomy 8:2*)

Why was this testing of Jesus important, just as it had been important for the first Israel?

Deuteronomy 8:2

Why does God test His people?

1 Peter 1:6-7

How are we to respond to the difficulties of God's tests?

James 1:2-4

How does perseverance from difficulties make us more *mature, not lacking anything*?

Romans 5:3-5

Why should we rejoice when God tests us?

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11

What is the reward for those who persevere?

James 1:12

Devotional Fasting (*Matthew 4:2*)

At what point during Jesus' 40 days in the desert did the first temptation come?

Luke 4:1-2

Had he not eaten because He couldn't find any food in the desert?

Matthew 4:2

Why did Jesus fast?

Matthew 6:17-18

Do we have a record of any other fast lasting this long?

Exodus 34:28

Jesus at His weakest can defeat Satan at his strongest

We can too with the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit

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### The First Temptation (*Matthew 4:3*)

How did Satan take advantage of Jesus' weakness to tempt Him?

Luke 4:3a

How did Satan take advantage of Jesus' hunger to severely tempt Him?

Matthew 4:3

How could just a word from Jesus turn stones into bread?

John 1:1-3

How was this temptation similar to the first temptation that man succumbed to?

Genesis 3:4-6

How did man's first temptation show Satan's main attack points?

Genesis 3:6

How does Satan attack us today in the same way?

1 John 2:16 (KJV)

Luke's version follows this order while Matthew's version is seen as chronological

### Jesus Replies to the First Temptation (*Matthew 4:4*)

Why would it be sinful for Jesus to prove to Satan that He was the Son of God?

1 John 2:16

How did Jesus respond to Satan's difficult temptation?

Matthew 4:4

Was Jesus quoting this verse out of context to make His own point?

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Why did Jesus quote God's Word to defend himself against Satan's attack?

Ephesians 6:10-17

### The Second Temptation (*Matthew 4:5-7*)

Seeing that Jesus' hunger was not a strong enough temptation, what did Satan then focus on?

Matthew 4:5-6a

How did Satan try to turn Jesus' reliance on God's Word against Him?

Matthew 4:6

Did Satan quote this verse correctly and completely?

Psalm 91:11-12

Did Jesus recognize the slight adjustment Satan had made?

Matthew 4:7

Did Jesus misquote an obscure part of Scripture?

Deuteronomy 6:4, 16

### Testing at Massah (*Exodus 17:1-7*)

What had happened at Massah?

Exodus 17:1-2

How were they putting God to the test just by asking for water?

Exodus 17:3

How did God respond to this threat to Moses?

Exodus 17:4-6

How was this incident further pointed out as an example of man testing God?

Exodus 17:7

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### The Third Temptation (*Matthew 4:8-10*)

Unable to get Jesus to test his deity, how did Satan then appeal to His human desires?

*Matthew 4:8-9*

How could Satan show Jesus all the kingdoms of the world from a high mountain?

*Luke 4:5*

Was Satan exaggerating that he had power over the world that he could offer to Jesus?

*John 12:31*

Was power over the nations something Satan could really give?

*Psalm 2:5-8*

Did Jesus understand who alone had control over the world?

*Matthew 4:10*

### Satan Leaves (*Matthew 4:11*)

Who did Jesus point out in His last reply was really in control?

*Matthew 4:10a*

Did Jesus have the power to do this?

*Luke 10:17-19*

How did Satan respond to Jesus' command?

*Matthew 4:11*

Did Satan leave Jesus for good and no longer bother with trying to tempt Him?

*Luke 4:13*

When was the next most opportune time for Satan to get directly involved with tempting Jesus?

*Mark 8:31-33*

What does it mean for us that Jesus had to deal with difficult temptations?

*Hebrews 2:18*

Were these the only times Jesus was tempted?

*Hebrews 4:15*

Why was it important that Jesus was without sin?

*Hebrews 7:26-27*

### Closing Prayer

### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When has my faith been tested as I have traveled through the wilderness in my life?  
(*Matthew 4:1; Deut. 8:2-5; Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 12:5-11; James 1:2-4, 13-17; 1 Peter 1:6-7*)
2. How have I responded to tests of my faith?  
(*Luke 4:1-13; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 16:4; 20:20; Deuteronomy 13:1-3; Judges 2:21-22; Job 1; James 1:12*)
3. When have I recently fallen into sin after being tempted by lust of the flesh?  
(*Luke 4:1-4; 9:23-26; Genesis 3:4-6; Deuteronomy 8:3; Romans 7; 8:5; Galatians 5:16-26*)
4. When have I recently fallen into sin after being tempted by the pride of life?  
(*Luke 4:9-12; Genesis 11:1-9; Matthew 6:1-18; 23:5-12; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 4:6-8; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 5:5-6*)
5. When have I recently fallen into sin after being tempted by lust of the eyes?  
(*Luke 4:5-8; Zech. 4:6; Matthew 6:19-24; 19:16-26; 20:25-28; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 2 Timothy 3:1-5*)