

Luke 4:1-13

Opening Thoughts

1. What first comes into your mind at the word 'temptation'?

Into the Passage

Read Luke 4:1-13

2. At the beginning of this chapter, Jesus has just been baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. But instead of beginning his ministry among the crowds, he is led into the wilderness. Why do you think this is?
3. Have you ever fasted from food? What do you think is the significance/meaning of it?
4. In verses 3 - 4, Satan appeals to Jesus' physical hunger and weakness. Why do you think it would have been wrong for Jesus to perform this miracle?
5. The second temptation in verses 5 - 8 is a question of authority. Who has top priority in your life? Who do you worship and serve?
6. For the last temptation in verses 9 - 12, Satan quotes a passage of the Old Testament. Why do you think he does this?
7. Why do you think Jesus only answers with scripture?
8. Why was Jesus able to avoid temptation?

Moving Forward

Looking at the whole letter (2 John 1-13), John's focus is that the church continue walking in God's commandment - loving Him and loving our neighbour. That the church relies on the grace, mercy & peace of Christ. And at the same time, watch yourself from being deceived into thinking you can live life apart from Christ.

9. Have you ever spent long periods of time with God alone? If so, share. If not, why?
10. Why do you think God allows us to experience periods of loneliness? Would you consider them a sign of spiritual weakness? Elaborate.
11. How do you handle or respond to feelings of isolation or weakness?
12. Seeing Jesus' example, how can you overcome temptation?

Life Together

Part of being a cell group is developing honest and authentic community where we are able to support one another in trust.

13. Spend some time sharing and praying for each other. If you feel comfortable, talk through some temptations you face and want support for.
14. This week, read 1 Corinthians 10:13 out loud together and memorise it for next week.

Luke 4:1-13 - Some Leader's Notes

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes. Don't place too much focus on them, and let the Bible study discussion lead primarily from the passage itself.

Into the Passage

Read Luke 4:1-13

2. At the beginning of this chapter, Jesus has just been baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. But instead of beginning his ministry among the crowds, he is led into the wilderness. Why do you think this is?

Full of the Holy Spirit, and ready to begin his ministry, and then led out to the wilderness for fasting and then being tempted. What a way to start ministry! But this in many ways tests Jesus' character and his preparation. From this temptation we discover that Jesus is indeed ready for his ministry and for leading the disciples. He is 1) submitted to God's plans, 2) humble, 3) self-disciplined, 4) knows the truth, 5) secure in his identity.

3. Have you ever fasted from food? What do you think is the significance/meaning of it?

Richard Foster, in "Celebration of Discipline" quotes John Wesley regarding fasting, "First, let it [fasting] be done unto the Lord with our eye singly fixed on Him. Let our intention herein be this, and this alone, to glorify our Father which is in heaven." In other words, fasting is our way of fixing and focusing our soul/mind/body on God.

Foster goes on to say, "More than any other Discipline, fasting reveals the things that control us. This is a wonderful benefit to the true disciple who longs to be transformed into the image of Christ. We cover up what is inside us with food and other good things, but in fasting these things surface. .. Fasting reminds us that we are sustained 'by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' Food does not sustain us, God does." - Celebration of Discipline, 1988, p54,55

4. In verses 3 - 4, Satan appeals to Jesus' physical hunger and weakness. Why do you think it would have been wrong for Jesus to perform this miracle?

Jesus did not have to prove that he was the son of God. And in his decision to fast, he did not want to disobey and break the fast to satisfy his own hunger. He would end the fast when the time was right.

5. The second temptation in verses 5 - 8 is a question of authority. Who has top priority in your life? Who do you worship and serve?

This is personal, you can answer it yourselves.

6. For the last temptation in verses 9 - 12, Satan quotes a passage of the Old Testament. Why do you think he does this?

Satan tries to trick Jesus, and use Scripture to convince Jesus to test God's faithfulness.

7. Why do you think Jesus only answers with scripture?

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

8. Why was Jesus able to avoid temptation?

Satan uses temptation to deceive Jesus - to try and trick Jesus into taking a blessing before it's time, disobeying God, or even satisfying himself. But Jesus avoids falling into Satan's traps because he is secure in the truth. He knows what is true and see past Satan's lies. He is secure in His relationship with God.

It's awesome, because in each of those Scriptures that he quotes, Jesus genuinely believes those as truth. Man does not live by bread alone! Don't put God to the test. Worship and serve God only. He's not just paying lip service, Jesus knows this is the truth. Everything else is just a deception.