

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #07

Passage: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon Date: Oct 30, 2005

Introduction:

Been in the desert lately? By yourself? At night? Among wild animals?

Ever fasted? For 40 days? How hungry do you suppose you'd be?

Been tempted lately? What do you suppose it would feel like to be the target of all of Satan's energy and schemes for forty days straight?

I'm not sure we can really imagine what it was like for Jesus to be led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Read Luke 4:1-13 and observe what Jesus went through, interpret its meaning, and apply it to your life.

PRAY FIRST: Before you start the study, spend a little time checking in with God, sharing your heart with Him, seeking His guidance as you open His Word and seek to let it influence your life.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart on the next page to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.</p> <p>³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."</p> <p>⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"</p> <p>⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷So if you worship me, it will all be yours."</p> <p>⁸Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>⁹The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"</p> <p>¹²Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"</p> <p>¹³When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.</p>	
<p>2. Parallel Passages: Look up the following passages where the other gospel authors tell the same story, and note similarities, differences, and your other observations and questions.</p>	
<p>Matthew 4:1-11</p> <p>Mark 1:12-13</p>	

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **Sins** you need to avoid
- **Promises** you want to believe
- **Examples** you'd like to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **Commands** you'll try harder to obey
- **Knowledge** you'd like to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Make Connections:

5. If you haven't already done so in your explorations on the previous pages, check out these cross references and note what you learn.

- a. Genesis ch. 3 (compare Adam's temptation & response with Jesus')

- b. Deut 6:4-19 (note how Jesus applies this passage when he's tempted)

- c. Exodus 34:28

- d. Hebrews 2:18, 4:15

Gear Up for Battle:

6. The Hebrews passages show us that Christ's temptations were real and painful, and also purposeful.

a. Did the Son of God use any weapons against temptation that are unavailable to us? What are the implications of this fact for us?
(from Luke, NavPress bible study, p. 49)

b. If Satan were going to take some temptation "shots" at you, which of your current vulnerabilities would he probably aim at?

c. Was your answer to (b) really where you're most vulnerable, or are there deeper or more private targets that you know he'd aim at? You may not be comfortable writing these down, let alone admitting them to yourself. Pray about it. Think about it. Let God write them on your heart.

d. Reflect on Psalm 119:9-11. Is your heart engaged in seeking God and are you immersed in his Word so much that you could truly say you've "hidden his Word in your heart"? Do you see any correlation between (1) how deeply you're taking in God's Word (reading, studying, memorizing, knowing it) and (2) your current progress resisting temptations?

Grab Your Sword – Permanently:

7. Jesus wielded Scripture to defend truth. So did his followers such as Paul and Peter. But in our information-laden world, many of us feel too overwhelmed to try to memorize scriptures.

a. What have been your experiences memorizing scriptures?

Successes & blessings?

Challenges & frustrations?

b. What steps might you take to better hide God's Word in your heart so you might not sin against Him?

Try using the scripture memory framework suggested on the next page.

Lifelong Scripture Memory

Carefully select a set of scriptures that you will memorize and retain for life.

*“The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”
(Luke 8:15)*

- Start with a small set of verses. If this is new or especially difficult for you, start with just the verses in bold. Then grow from there (don't 'sink the boat' with too many). List your choices in the table.

My Lifelong Scripture Memory Verse Set
Commissioning Verse(s)
Gospel Verse(s)
Temptation Verse(s)
Testimony Verse(s)
Other Verse(s)

Suggestions

Matt 28:18-20

Mk 16:15, Acts 1:8, 1Pet 3:15

John 3:16

Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9,13
1 John 5:13, John 5:24

Matthew 4:10

Mt 4:4, 4:7,
Heb 2:18, Psalm 119:9-11

Are there one or two verses that are an important part of the story of how you became a Christian?

Are there a few other verses that are so important to you that you want to add them to your lifelong memory set?

- Write your verses out. Put them where you'll see them. (Deut 6:8-9) Ask someone to help you memorize and review them.
- Develop at least one long-term new habit of reviewing these verses regularly (perhaps daily at first, then weekly, or monthly). Schedule this, or connect it to another habit or routine such as practicing them at mealtime, in the shower, during your commute.
- Ask God to help you select, learn, and retain these scriptures for the rest of your life. This is the kind of prayer He would love to hear you pray from your heart. For He says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." (John 15:7)