The background of the entire page is a photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, smooth, light-colored stone resting on the dry, rocky ground. The ground is a mix of reddish-brown soil and small rocks. In the distance, there are some small, dark trees or bushes against a hazy, orange-brown sky. The overall tone is warm and somewhat somber.

Community Group study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

Pregame series
26th January 2020



Before every major sporting event there is the pregame show, which provides information for those who are both knowledgeable and inexperienced so that when kick off takes place they can more fully understand what is taking place and enjoy the game more.

In this series we are going to look at four stories which take place before Jesus kicks off His ministry, and Luke gives us these stories so when Jesus does start His ministry we have all the information we need to be on board with Him from the beginning.

However, unlike many sports pregame shows which simply have to fill time, Luke isn't interested in giving us stories for the sake of filling time, but he tells us about plays which take place which get us excited about who Jesus might be and cheering for Him when His ministry starts.



4 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

4 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’ ” 5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” 8 And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’ ”

9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written,

*“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’
11 and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”
12 And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord
your God to the test.’ ” 13 And when the devil had ended every
temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.
Luke 4:1–13 (ESV)*



JOHN THE BAPTIZER

MATT. 3:1-4:12

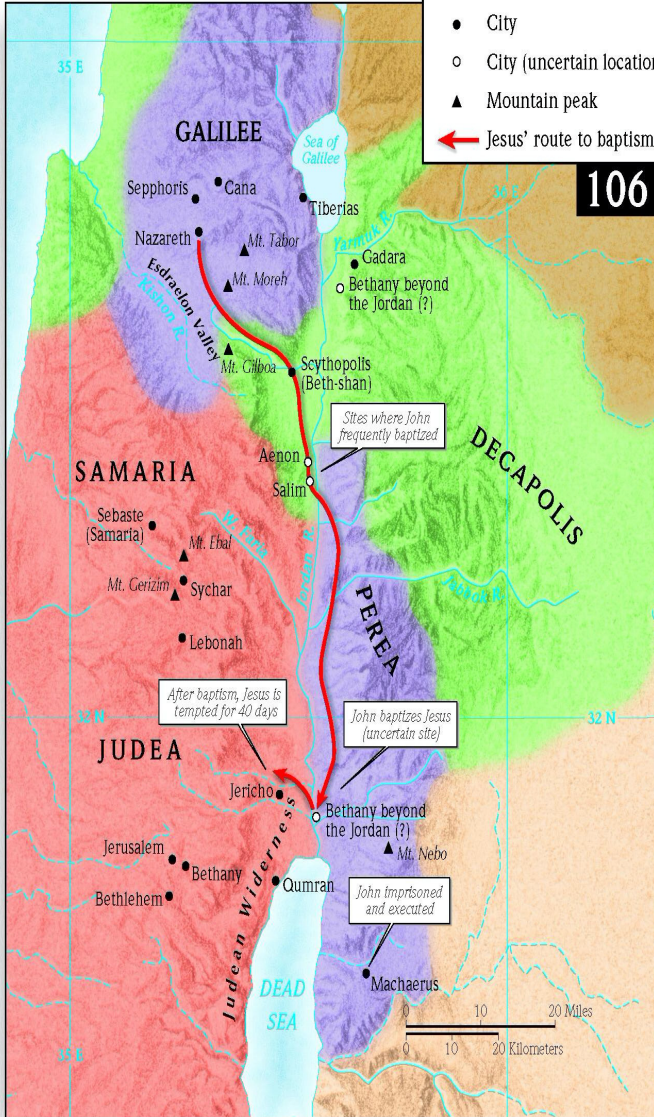
MARK 1:4-14; 6:14-29

LUKE 3:1-23; 9:7-9

JOHN 1:6-8, 15-37; 3:22-24

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Jesus' route to baptism

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Commentary

Traditionally it has been believed that Jesus' baptism took place in the Jordan somewhere near Jericho, Luke focuses on after the baptism when Jesus is praying and the Spirit comes upon Him like a dove, and then a voice from heaven affirms what we the readers have known since the angel appeared to Mary; Jesus is the beloved Son with whom God is well pleased.

There is a short break from the narrative as Luke recalls Jesus' heritage, confirming Him not only as the Son of God, but the son of Adam and the heir of David.

With the genealogy confirmed we might now reasonably assume the narrative will pick up with Jesus starting off His ministry, but instead we find Jesus heading out into the wilderness. Again, it is not known for certain where Jesus went, but it could well have been the rugged desolation of the wilderness west of Jericho.

Why is Jesus heading out into the wilderness? Just bought some new camping gear from REI, or he wants to get some peace and quiet? No, He is going out there because the Holy Spirit is leading Him out there. We have seen that Jesus is qualified for the mission He has been called to undertake: He is the Son of God, He has identified with the mission with His baptism, He has all the right people in his genealogy, and He is filled with the Holy Spirit, but the question is will His qualifications stand up to the test? Many had come before Him, with great qualifications, and yet had not been able to stand the test.

The nation who had been led out into the wilderness before Jesus was of course Israel, and they too had faced these three tests.

Live by bread alone

3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV)

No other gods

6 “ ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

7 “ ‘You shall have no other gods before me.

Deuteronomy 5:6–7 (ESV)

Not put the Lord to the test

16 “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

Deuteronomy 6:16 (ESV)

Jesus being out in the wilderness for forty day also reminds us of the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness due to their failure to resist these temptations. Although Jesus is tempted throughout the period, the devil's final three temptations come when Jesus is literally starving to death and isolated from any human support.

The first temptation asks Jesus if He will rely on God's provision for His overwhelming need or take matters into His own hands and use His own powers.

The second temptation shows us that the devil is the real power behind the powers in this world. Jesus has been promised an everlasting kingdom and the devil will give Jesus it, free of the cross and suffering and shame, but in order for Jesus to have it he will have to give his allegiance to the devil and not God.

The final test shows that the devil knows Scripture as well, and He uses it to try and get Jesus to force God's hand and act. The devil tries to get Jesus to use scripture in a way which disobeys God rather than obey Him.

Jesus for the third time uses scripture to resist the temptation and this period of His ordeal is done. Jesus has successfully resisted, the temptations, the devil withdraws for now, until an opportune time presents itself, but that's not to say the devil won't be indirectly using people during Jesus' ministry to challenge Him, but the devil himself will wait until the cross looms large in Jesus' sights to make his next greatest temptation.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

What is the hungriest or thirstiest you have ever been in your life? What would you have given to alleviate your hunger or slake your thirst?

Read the following passage.

29 Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his

name was called Edom.) 31 Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." 32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33 Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 25:29–34 (ESV)

What would possess Esau to sell his birthright? What is our birthright through Jesus Christ? Have you ever been tempted to sell the future provision of His promise for immediate gratification in the world?

When are you most vulnerable to temptation?

Read Psalm 2

Who is the power behind the raging nations?

What is God's promise to His Son in verses 7 and 8?

How does Jesus secure the promise of authority over the kingdoms of the world?

Why are we tempted to get out of suffering like Jesus? In order to avoid suffering and have authority in this world who would we have to give our allegiance to?

The last temptation the devil tries to get Jesus with is to force God's hand. This is not an attempt to try and attract attention, there is no mention of on lookers, rather Jesus is tempted to use a promise of God in the wrong way.

Have you ever been tempted to use a promise of God in the wrong way?

How can we be sure to use God's promises in the right way?

Personal study time

Consider these three promises from God this week, and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to live them out.

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38–39 (ESV)

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by

your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Peter 5:6–9 (ESV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

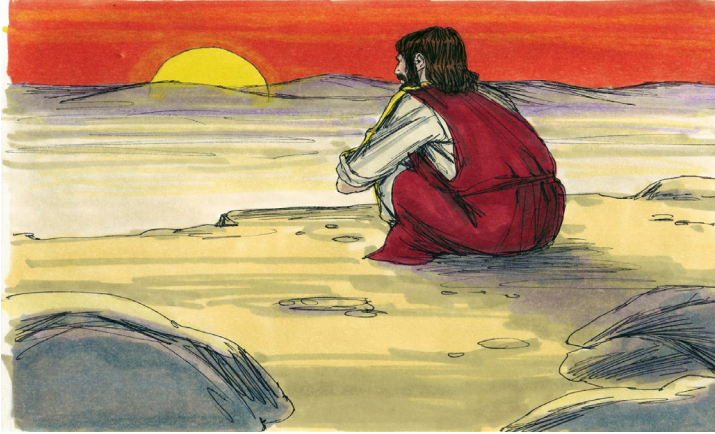
11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Ephesians 6:10–18 (ESV)

Ways I will live them out

Lined area for writing responses.

KIDS CORNER



Choosing what's right

1. What's something in your life you can't control?

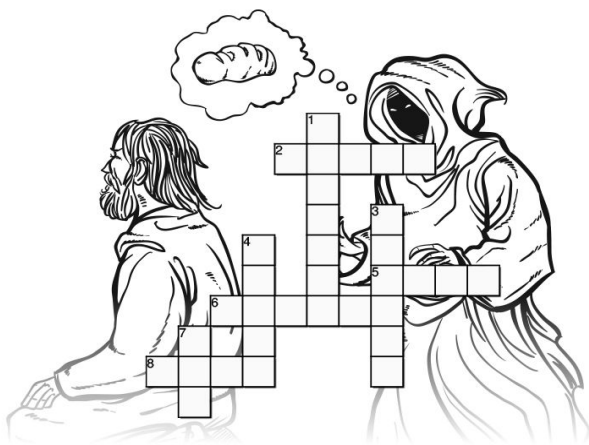
Oftentimes, we don't have much control in our lives. Maybe you don't get to choose what you eat for dinner, or when you go to bed isn't up to you. But, no matter how many things we have no say over, there is one thing we can always control. We always have the power to do what's right. It's our choice - not our parents', not our teachers', but ours - whether we will do what is good, and honorable, and helpful, or what is wrong, and selfish, and harmful. Sure, there will be situations which make choosing what's right harder, and we don't control those situations. But we do control our own thoughts and actions in those situations. Fortunately, we don't have to do it on our own. There is someone who can give us the will power to choose the right thing: Jesus!

As Satan tempted Him in the wilderness, He consistently chose the right thing, even though it was difficult. Now, when we're faced with tough situations, He is ready and able to strengthen us to choose goodness, honor, and selflessness. All we have to do is ask! That way, we can try our best to do what's right and lean on Him for our strength.

2. Do you want to ask Jesus for help doing what's right?

THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST JESUS

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22



Across

2. How many days did Jesus stay in the wild?
5. On the mountain, Jesus told Satan to "Be _____."
6. What high building did Satan take Jesus to the top of?
8. Jesus said that man should live by the _____ of God

Down

1. On the mountain, Satan wanted Jesus to _____.
3. Who did Satan say would take care of Jesus if he jumped off the temple?
4. Satan asked Jesus to turn the stones into _____.
7. Jesus was focused on _____ instead of himself, to resist temptation by Satan.

