

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – April 25, 2021

Theme: The Life of Jesus Topic: Jesus: His Victory Over Temptation

Main Text: Luke 4:1-15

Key verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13: *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: Jesus’ testing mirrors Israel’s experience in the wilderness. Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days, like the Israelites 40 years in the desert. Again, all three passages that Jesus quoted in response to the devil come from a time in the Israelites 40-year desert journey when God was imploring Israel to be faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 6:16; 8:2). Also, the three specific temptations parallel three significant instances in which Israel failed in the wilderness: Israel failed to remember God when “they gave in to their craving”; and “They made a calf and worshiped an idol”; and they tested and “rebelled against the Spirit of God” (Exodus 16:1–3; Exodus 32:1–1; and Numbers 20:1–13). But unlike the Israelites in the desert, Jesus faithfully resisted the devil’s temptations, and overcame.

1. (a) Refer to Luke 4:3, 5-7, 9-11. What did Satan ask Jesus to do in each instance? (b) Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to refuse to satisfy His hunger at that material time and place? (c) Read Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:15-16; 5:8-9. In what way(s) was the temptation of Jesus beneficial to us?

According to Hebrews 2:16-17, Jesus had to be fully human to be our Savior in every sense of the word. What that means is that Jesus overcame the tempter as man, not as God. In so doing, He serves as our perfect model for victory over temptation. Because Jesus overcame, we too can overcome temptations. To do so, we must look at how He did it. He did not apply logic or rely on the intellect in dealing with the enemy. Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) says: *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.* Therefore, yielding to temptation, for the believer, is no longer an option but a choice. In other words, we yield to sin because we choose to, not because Christ has not provided the example and resources for us to live in victory.

2. (a) Refer to Luke 4: 1a, 4, 8, 12. What is the “Jesus’ template” for overcoming temptation? (b) Read James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What is the two-step action for overcoming temptation in every situation? (c) Will God permit you to go through a temptation or trial that you cannot overcome?

While we are still here on earth, we cannot avoid temptations. Besides, overcoming a particular temptation does not mean such temptation or another, will not come our way again. Luke 4:13 (NLT) tells us that *“When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.”* We know from Hebrews 4:15, that Jesus overcame every temptation which came His way. At another level, some temptations may seem as if we are experiencing something unique. Yet again, God’s word tells us that *“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience...”* (1 Corinthians 10:13a NLT). Meanwhile, the Israelites’ 40-year journey from Egypt to the promised land holds up as a picture of the believer’s spiritual journey here on earth (from redemption till death or till Jesus’ return). While on that journey, the Israelites faced a range of situations which tested them – situations like what Jesus faced in His 40-day desert ordeal with the devil. As 1 Corinthians 10: 11 tells us, the Israelites’ wilderness experience was for our instruction.

3. (a) Jesus used the written word of God to overcome satan’s temptation. Why is it impossible to overcome temptation without God’s Word? See Psalm 119:11; Ephesians 6:17 (b) What other resources has God provided for us to overcome temptation? See Matthew 6:13; 26:41; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 6:11 (c) In which of these resources for overcoming temptation do you tend to slack? What measurable steps can you take to strengthen such area(s)

Prayer: *Father, we thank You for the provision You have made through Christ for us to overcome temptation. In Jesus Name, we receive these blessings with gratitude. Amen.*