

A Study of the Gospel of Luke – Part One
Lesson 7

➤ **Read Luke 4:1–15.**

1. This week's passage follows Jesus' baptism where the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form and the Father affirmed his love and approval of his Son. Where does the Spirit lead Jesus right after this? (v. 1a)
2. Read Deuteronomy 8:2, in which Moses reminds the people of their 40 years in the desert.
 - a. What was God's purpose for their time in the wilderness?

40

The number 40 is significant in the Biblical record (occurring over 150 times) and often refers to a time of testing, judgment, or probation. For example, rain fell for 40 days and nights to flood the earth destroying every living thing (Gen. 7:12); twice Moses fasted for 40 days on Mt. Sinai (Deut. 9:9, 18, 25); and the spies were sent to scout out the Promised Land for 40 days (Num. 13:21-25). The most prominent Old Testament instance is when the Israelites were condemned to wander for 40 years in the desert for their disobedience (Num. 14:34).

- b. Jesus has been led into this harsh, lonely, and desolate place to be tempted, or tested (Mt. 4:1). How does his experience parallel the Israelites' experience? (Deut. 8:2)

In what key way does it differ? (Ps. 78:17–22, 40–43)

➤ **Read Luke 4:3–4.**

3. While fasting for 40 days, Jesus is being tempted by the devil.
 - a. What clever temptation does the devil throw at Jesus while he is weak and hungry? (v. 2)

 - b. The first temptation is not just about bread. What deeper issues lie at the heart of this temptation? (v. 3; Deut. 8:3–4. Hint: Consider questions of identity, trust, and provision.)

4. How does Matthew 6:25–33 help us understand Jesus’ response (v. 4)?

How does this work out practically in your day-to-day life?

➤ **Read Luke 4:5–8.**

5. The devil offers Jesus a quick and easy pathway to gain “authority and splendor” (v. 6) if he will only worship him.
 - a. Why does Jesus not choose this path? (v. 8)

 - b. What is the devil tempting Jesus to avoid? (Mt. 16:21–26)

➤ **Read Luke 4:9–12.**

6. Satan tempts Jesus to test whether God is trustworthy by misusing Psalm 91. How does Jesus answer? (v. 12; Deut. 6:16; For context of the verse he quotes, read Exod. 17:1–7.)



Read Psalm 91 to see
God's beautiful
promises of care for
those who trust in him.

7. This is not the first time Satan has misused God's word to tempt man. Read Genesis 3:1–6 to see how Adam and Eve fared when they were tempted. Now read Romans 5:12, 17–19 and contrast the consequences of Adam and Eve's failure to the consequences of Jesus' victory over temptation.

➤ **Read Luke 4:13–15.**

8. What does the devil do after finishing "all this tempting" (v. 13)? (v. 13)
9. Jesus has been fasting for 40 days and defending himself against the temptations of the devil. You would think he would come out of the desert exhausted and needing a break. Instead, what does Luke say about Jesus? (v. 14)
10. Reread Luke 4:1–12.
- a. What enables Jesus to be victorious over temptation?
 - b. What help is there for us when we face temptation?

- c. How do the following verses add to your answer?
Ephesians 6:10–17

1 Corinthians 10:12–13

James 4:7

- d. How is Jesus uniquely qualified to help us when we face temptation? (Heb. 2:14–18)

11. Read Philippians 2:5–8 and review Hebrews 2:14–18. In your trials and temptations, consider Christ: though he was “in very nature of God” (Phil. 2:6), he did not use his power for personal gain but humbled himself and submitted to the indignities, sufferings, and temptations of being human. As a result, we have in Jesus a high priest who can “empathize with our weaknesses” (Heb. 4:15). He is good and merciful and able to help you as you are tempted. Consider these truths in prayer.