LIFE GROUP LEADER'S
Weekly Discussion Guide

ALLIANCE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
LIFE GROUPS
BOONE, NC

Week of Sunday, December 10, 2023

Resources

- **Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon**: abfboone.com/sermons
- **Find Life Group resources**: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Luke 4:1-13

[1] 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. (ESV)

Sermon Outline:

I.   The Nature of the Temptations
II.   The Victory over the Temptations

Life Group Leader Notes:

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•Because Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he can sympathize with us when we are tempted. (See Hebrews 4:14-16). How does this knowledge change the way that you struggle against sin? Do you ever try to fight temptation on your own, as if you needed to impress God? Or do you cry out to God in your weakness, knowing that he can sympathize with you? Describe the differences in these two approaches.

•When you get serious for God, you will be opposed. Does this line up with your experience? Describe a time in your life when you obeyed God at great cost. How did Satan try to oppose you? How did the Holy Spirit help you in your weakness?

•List a few examples from Scripture where God's servants were opposed immediately after they were called.

•Temptation is different from sin. Why is this distinction important? What might happen in your struggle against sin if you felt defeated at the first sign of temptation? How can you prevent birds from building nests in your head?

•Satan repeatedly tempted Jesus to use his *power as God* to alleviate his *suffering as a man*. Why did he do this? Why did Jesus refuse? When you are tempted, do you ever want God to use his divine power to alleviate your suffering? What kind of prayer might you pray instead?

•The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, and he led him out of the wilderness. The Spirit caused Jesus to hunger, and the Spirit satisfied his hunger. Jesus relied on the Spirit throughout the entire temptation. Have you ever been led into the wilderness by the Spirit, only to take a shortcut from the devil?

•Jesus was never alone in his struggle against the devil. Why is this important? Do you ever feel like you are alone in your battle against sin? If you are facing spiritual opposition, how can you cultivate a stronger prayer life? Did God compel anyone to fast in response to the sermon? How can you rely on the members of your life group?

•Jesus battled Satan with the word of God. Are you growing in your love for and knowledge of the Bible? Perhaps you could discuss Bible reading plans as a life group as we come upon a new year.

•Adam was in the perfect environment and yet he failed the temptation. Jesus was in the worst possible environment and yet he resisted the devil. What does this teach us about ourselves? Do you ever blame your circumstances for your sin? What does this teach us about Christ? How does it increase your awe of Jesus?