

Transition:

Immediately following the baptism of Jesus, He is led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil. The same story is told in Luke 4 – and in both instances, Jesus begins His ministry right afterward. We looked at why Jesus was baptized, but why would He need to be tempted and endure a 40-day fast before being “ready” for ministry?

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think is the main reason Jesus was tempted like this? (Heb 4:15-16)
2. Who is “the devil” and what do you think he was hoping to accomplish? (Gen 3; John 8:44, 10:10; Rom 8:1; 2 Tim 4:3-4; 1 Pet 5:8)
3. What is significant about how Jesus responded, “It is written...”?

Fundamental:

The Humanity of Jesus – So far, in Matthew, we have seen that Jesus is God. However, it is essential that we know that Jesus was also 100% human while on this earth. He experienced hunger, thirst, temptation, pain, suffering, and ultimately, He died – just like you and me. Even more importantly, Jesus being human meant that His blood could be shed for the remission of our sins. If that did not happen, then none of us could be saved.

1. Why did Jesus' blood need to be shed? (Lev 17:11; Heb 9:22,10:4)
2. If Jesus, being filled with the Spirit, was able to resist the temptation of sin, does that mean we have the same ability to resist? (1 Cor 10:13; Heb 2:18; Jam 4:7; 1 Pet 5:9)
3. Do you believe Jesus lived a perfect life (body/mind/soul) as an example for us to follow?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Do a 24-hour fast this week and focus on prayer.
2. Please read Matthew 5 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Many people will focus on the things that only Jesus can do, but miss what He accomplished FOR US so that we can live a holy life. Have hard conversations about not making excuses for giving in to temptation.

Prayer:

Spend time in confession and repentance in your group – focusing on those that have felt defeated over temptation. Pray for understanding that God has called us to obedience and holiness.