

The Gathering Community Group Guide

True Story // Part 9 // Overcoming temptation

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Luke 4:1-13

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

Temptation. It's something that ALL of us can relate to, and something that even happened to Jesus (see Hebrews 4:15). The difference between Jesus and us, though, is that temptation never resulted in sin when it came to Jesus. Want to know why? Us, too! So, we took a look at the temptation of Jesus in Luke 4:1-13, and here's what we found:

1. **We've got to be full of the Spirit if we're going to be led by the Spirit:** One of the biggest reasons that Jesus didn't give in to temptation is that he was too full of the Spirit! Think about that! Perhaps the best way to say no to temptation is by saying yes to the Spirit! We do that through encouraging fellowship around the truth, through worship and through being thankful.
2. **God doesn't lead us into temptation, but he does lead us into confrontation:** This is a hard truth to grasp if we want easy faith. But the reality is that, while God doesn't tempt us, he does use us to battle the tempter, and that means being led to places of spiritual confrontation. For Jesus, it was a desert. It probably will be for us, too. So fight well, and don't give it to the enemy.
3. **God turns the places of greatest temptation into the places of greatest transformation:** Temptation may be common, but our responses to it aren't. When we fight through the temptation, we'll find that God takes them and uses them for our transformation! We may be tempted in the desert, but we'll also be transformed in the desert.
4. **Good things become bad things when they remove God as Lord of everything:** Satan never tempts us with the truth; only with our preferred truth. Each of the temptations Jesus faced appeared to be good things – food, influence, protection – but all of them forced him to trust Satan more than God. Ultimately, that's the enemy's goal in every temptation.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- How do you normally deal with temptation? How has that approach worked for you?
- Compare Genesis 3:1 with James 1:13. Where does temptation ultimately come from?
- Satan's game plan is temptation, but God's game plan is transformation! Read Romans 12:2 and Joshua 1:8-9. What do you think God's most common method of transformation? How did Jesus respond to each temptation?
- Read Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 1:1-3; 1 Peter 2:2 and Psalm 119:11 and discuss the benefits of knowing and using God's word.
- This week's Big Idea said, "it's the transformation that makes the temptation less tempting." How does the success of changing to become more and more like Christ make it easier to say no to the temptations of the enemy?