



**VERSUS**  
SERMON SERIES

CONNECT GROUP STUDY GUIDES



# ***Versus: Where?***

## WARM UP

- When you wake up, what is the first thought that comes into your mind?
- What topic were you excited to learn about and research on in school? Why?
- Who do you run to for advice when facing a difficult situation? Why do you trust him/her?

## WORD

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

Luke 4:1,2

After Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, He was led by the Holy Spirit in the desert and was tempted by the devil. It was the perfect place for the devil to tempt Jesus knowing that He was hungry with no water to drink and the scorching heat of the sun was too much to bear. In the same way, the devil knows exactly where to attack us—our minds. Let's learn from the passages how Jesus overcame the battles that begin in our minds.

### **1. Be filled with the Spirit of God.**

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert . . .*

Luke 4:1

Before being led into the desert, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave Jesus the power to be steadfast in the midst of His testing and honor the Father despite being weak physically. Likewise, we too need the Spirit of God to overcome our daily battles and honor God. How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit every day?

### **2. Know and confess the Word of God.**

<sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:3,4

The tempter failed to instill doubt in Jesus because He knew the truth and was secure in who He was in God (Matthew 3:17). In the same way, we can win our battles while they are still thoughts in our heads (2 Corinthians 10:5) when we know the truth found in God's Word. How can we 'live on God's Word' every day? Why is this important?

### 3. Be fully convinced that Jesus is the Lord our God.

*Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Luke 4:12

In all of his temptations to Jesus, the devil kept questioning Christ's identity as the Son of God and in all these, Jesus was firm about who He was—that He is the Lord our God! We need to be fully convinced of who Jesus Christ is—the very anchor of our faith. What we believe Him to be and who we believe He is determine our victory over every battle in our minds. How important is it to believe that Jesus is God?

#### So What?

- Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What do you think is the importance of putting on the full armor of God? Why do we need the sword of the Spirit?
- In what way do you find the commandments of God helpful in overcoming battles in our minds?
- What is the will of God for us according to Romans 8:5?

#### APPLICATION

- How can you make sure that you are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit every day? What practical steps are you willing to commit to so His presence in your life will increase some more?
- What temptations or doubts do you find hard to overcome? What does the Bible say about these thoughts and what will you do about them?
- Have you decided to follow Jesus and let Him be the Lord over every area of your life? Will you be willing to make that decision today?

#### PRAYER

- Thank God for the victory and power to overcome temptation. Allow the Holy Spirit to cleanse your mind and commit to fill it with God's Word every day.
- Pray for the discipline to read the Bible every day. Ask God to reveal Himself more to you and to strengthen your relationship with Him all the more.
- Intercede for those people you know are in need of hope and breakthrough. Believe God for opportunity to share the gospel with them.