



## Week One – Jesus vs Temptation

### CONNECT

- What is the longest you ever went without eating? How did it feel?
- what is the greatest fight scene you've witnessed in a movie?

### WORD

#### **Matthew 4:1–11 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <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 shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."

### THOUGHT

In this chapter of Matthew one of the greatest battles on the face of the earth took place. It was the ultimate showdown of good versus evil. Jesus the son of the true one and only living God versus Satan himself! It says that Jesus was tempted in every way known to man yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15 NIV). In this study we will look at how Satan tried to distract and tempt Jesus from his ultimate mission in which he was to redeem mankind back to God.

## DISCUSSION

1. For each of the three Temptations: (a) To what human need/desire does the temptation appeal? (c) What price would there be if Jesus were to yield to the temptation?

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2. How does Jesus respond to each Temptation?

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3. How important was it for Jesus to be tempted by Satan?

- Not very important since the Son of God couldn't really be tempted
  - Somewhat important in order to toughen Jesus up
  - Essential for Jesus to learn – every rookie needs to be tested
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4. What does Jesus' Temptation teach us?

- Fasting and prayers makes us vulnerable to temptation
  - Fasting and prayer makes us stronger against temptation
  - It's best to be armed with scripture when temptation comes
  - When temptation comes, God sends help
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5. When do you find yourself most vulnerable to the Tempter?

- When I'm tired and under stress
  - When I'm alone or away from home
  - After a spiritual 'high'
  - When I'm not expecting it
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6. What has helped you overcome temptation when it comes?

- Scripture
  - Prayer
  - Telling someone else about it
  - Running away
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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Take time this week to memorize Scriptures on areas of your life where you feel weak
- Find time to pray this week over areas of your life where you feel most vulnerable

## PRAYER

- Ask God to help you in times of temptation (*James 4:6*).
- Ask God to put someone in your life who you can trust to help you when temptation comes.