

STUDY NOTES

THE WAY AND WORDS OF JESUS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Temptation of Jesus” on 1/28/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 4:1-15

WHERE DOES TEMPTATION COME FROM?

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. While there, Satan took it on himself to tempt Jesus. God didn't tempt Jesus. Satan did. Read James 1:13-14. Temptation comes from two places—the tempter and our own desire. To fight temptation our desires must be rooted in the things of God.

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” - Psalm 37:4

- *Why do you think that Satan loves to attack people when they are isolated?*
- *How does delighting in the Lord and the things of the Lord help fight temptation for you?*

TEMPTATION FOR PHYSICAL THINGS

Jesus had been fasting for forty days. One of Satan's strategies was to try to get Jesus when and where he was weak. He was hungry. The bread wasn't evil, but submitting himself to Satan's plan would have been. In the power of the Holy Spirit, he was able to resist the temptation.

To defeat a temptation for physical needs and appetites: rely on what God provides.

- *How do you see Satan taking good things, twisting them, and then luring people in with said thing to hurt that person?*

Satan even twists scripture to try to lure people in. He is called the “father of lies”; and we all know that the best lies have some truth embedded in them.

- *What are some practical ways to be discerning regarding the schemes of the enemy?*

SATAN'S SHORTCUTS

Satan's next strategy was to tempt Jesus with a shortcut to God's plan for Jesus. He tempted Jesus with authority over all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus willingly left authority in heaven and he would earn greater authority through death and resurrection, but Satan tempted Jesus with something that looked easier. Jesus responds in the power of the Spirit by worshipping God.

There are no shortcuts to God's promises. You have to take God's path to God's promises.

- *How have you seen Satan's shortcuts bring pain in your experience?*
- *How have you seen God's path to his plan to bring more life in your experience?*
- *What does living in the power of the Holy Spirit mean to you?*
- *Pray for strength to overcome temptation*