

Fighting Temptation Like Jesus

Luke 4:1-15

There's hope for you and me in Jesus' victory over temptation.

Luke 4:1-15

1. We can have hope knowing Jesus faced temptations just like ours. (*Heb. 12:1-2; James 1:2-4, 13-15*)
 - a. Temptation is the lure trying to draw us away from God.
 - b. We face temptation from the world, the flesh, and the devil. (*Eph 2:1-3, James 4:1-3*)
 - c. Temptation looks for vulnerabilities to exploit.
 - 1) Weakness (*Luke 4:2*)
 - 2) Right after "spiritual highs" (*Luke 3:21-22, 4:1*)
 - 3) Unexpected moments (*Luke 4:13*)
 - 4) Beginnings of significant movements (*Luke 4:14-15*)
2. We can have hope because Jesus endured temptation and won.
 - a. Because Jesus suffered in temptation, he offers compassion. (*Heb. 2:17-18*)
 - b. Jesus learned obedience through his temptation. (*Heb. 5:8-9*)
 - c. Because Jesus faced temptation and won, he is able to provide salvation for us.
 - d. Jesus is the pioneer who shows us the way through. (*Heb. 2:10*)
3. How should we face temptation?
 - a. Watch with vigilance. (*1 Pet. 5:8-9*)
 - b. Stand firm on God's Word (*Eph 6:17-18*)
 - c. Pray
 - d. Be in community
 - e. Run away (*2 Tim 2:22*)

Small Group Discussion Questions:

(Pick one or two from each category)

Ice-Breakers

1. If you had to pick your biggest vulnerability from 'HALTS' (hungry, angry, lonely, tired, sad), which one wins?
2. What's something small that shouldn't be a big deal, but somehow always tests your patience or self-control? (Slow drivers, long lines, tech issues, kids not listening, etc.)
3. After a really good or productive day, what's the most common way you tend to 'let your guard down'?

Gospel

1. In Luke 4:1–13, what does Jesus' experience of temptation reveal about his true humanity? Why does that matter for our understanding of the Gospel?
2. How does the contrast between Adam and Jesus (Gen 3 vs. Luke 4) help you better understand the Gospel?
3. According to Hebrews 2:17–18, how does Jesus' suffering in temptation shape the kind of help he offers us?
4. In what ways does the Gospel address not just our sinful actions, but our **sinful desires**?
5. The sermon emphasized hope in Christ during temptation. What specific aspects of the Gospel give you the most hope in your current struggles?

Community

1. In what ways does temptation tend to isolate you from others? How can community push against that?
2. How can we cultivate a culture where it's safe to say, "I'm being tempted right now"?
3. The sermon described temptation as targeting our vulnerabilities. How can trusted relationships help expose blind spots we might miss?

4. What makes it difficult to be honest about temptation in Christian community?
How can we address those barriers?
5. How can we encourage one another without minimizing the seriousness of sin?
6. What does it look like to “bear one another’s burdens” in the context of ongoing temptation? (cf. Galatians 6:1–2)

Mission

1. How might giving in to temptation quietly undermine our witness to others?
2. In what ways does enduring temptation actually prepare us for ministry, as it did for Jesus (Luke 4:14–15)?
3. The sermon said temptation often comes before significant movements of God. How might that shape the way we approach new ministry opportunities?
4. How does Jesus as the “pioneer” (Hebrews 2:10; 12:2) shape the way we step into difficult or uncomfortable ministry situations?
5. What are some common temptations that keep Christians from sharing the Gospel (fear, comfort, approval, etc.)?
6. What is one concrete step of obedience or outreach you sense God calling you to take this week in response to this passage?