

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **LOOK**

How would you define a temptation? Are temptations always evil? (Temptation is anything, internal or external, that threatens to draw us from the presence and love of God.)

Describe a time when you experienced temptation. What form did it take? How did you respond?

### **BOOK**

Luke 4:1-13

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

- 1) Why do you think the Spirit led Jesus to be tempted right after his baptism?
- 2) The devil offered Jesus opportunities to provide for himself, to promote himself, and to prove himself. How did Jesus, in each instance, point to and trust God?
- 3) What would be so wrong about Jesus making bread when he was hungry?
- 4) How is the identity of Jesus being defined by these temptations? What kind of messiah will he be? What kind of messiah will he not be?

### **TOOK**

C.S. Lewis writes "The greatest trick the devil ever played was to make the world believe he doesn't exist." Discuss.

What are you tempted to trust in besides God? Do your strongest temptations come when you are at your most vulnerable or when you feel strong? How do you become more aware of your unique temptations?

Jesus clarified his identity as messiah through these trials. How has God used a temptation or trial in your life to hone your identity as a beloved child of God?

At its heart, this story is about relationship and trust. Do we trust that God will give us what we need? Do we put our relationship with him above all else? How are you distracted from trusting in Jesus, or tempted to turn elsewhere to find your identity?

Remember that Jesus was 'filled with the Holy Spirit' as he began his wilderness time. We are not meant to go through trials alone. How will you call on the Holy Spirit in your time of trial?