

JESUS

through the eyes of...

Week of March 5 – The Devil¹

Overview:

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some of the enemies he faced while on earth. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.²

Group Objectives:

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Discuss how Jesus resisted temptation and how it can help us in our own struggles.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We are empowered by the Holy Spirit*—The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live life beyond belief—a life filled with joy, purpose, and power. We live in a supernatural reality that includes yet transcends the physical universe.

Conversation Starters:

- What is your favorite meal? Is it a favorite from childhood, something you eat often, or a one-time experience?

Listening to God

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

- **Read Luke 4:1-13**
 - What did it mean for Jesus to be in the wilderness? Why did Luke emphasize his hunger? Why might Jesus choose to intentionally fast before temptation?
 - How did the devil tempt Jesus? What did he offer him? What authority did the devil have to follow through on his promises?
 - What do you notice about how Jesus responds? How are his responses different than what you would expect? Does Jesus do or say anything that surprises you?

¹ This week's lesson was written by Rachel Vaughn and edited by Dawn Gentry.

² For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to cccomaha.info.

- **Read Genesis 7:11-12, Exodus 25:17-18, 1 Kings 19:7-8**
 - *Forty is a significant number in the Bible. What do you notice about these examples?*
 - *Why do you think Jesus repeated this pattern? What might it signify?*
 - *Why did Jesus wander so long before his temptation? What do you think he was doing during those forty days?*

- **Read Deuteronomy 6:10-19, 8:2-3; Psalm 91:9-13**
 - *Both Jesus and the devil quoted scripture. What do you notice about the passages they chose?*
 - *Why do you think Jesus combated the devil with scripture? Given his weakened state, what does this tell you about the importance of scripture in his life before this experience?*

Leaning into Obedience:

- What does temptation look like in your life (be as vague or specific as you are comfortable)? How does Jesus' defeat of the devil give you hope?
- Have you experienced a time in the wilderness? Are you there now? How does Jesus' experience change your perspective about the wilderness?
 - This might be a great place to discuss how various stages of faith (especially "the wall") can show up at different times in our lives. See the *Discipleship Matters* brochure (available at the connect area) or online at www.ccomaha.org/discipleship for more information about stages of faith or talk to one of our Adult Ministry team members.
- Both Jesus and the devil use scripture. What are some ways we can be certain to use scripture correctly? What is your best next step to grow in your own Biblical literacy?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.
Do I trust the word of God to defend me against the devil?
- Option: Read Romans 8:37-39 over your group.
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.