



From the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he is proving himself as our champion. He is winning everywhere we tend to lose. He overcomes temptation in the desert. He isn't crushed by rejection in his hometown. And he heals everyone in Galilee of both spiritual and physical sickness. These three bouts in Luke 4 will build our faith and confidence in a God who is undefeated. So no matter what it looks like right now, we know what is eternally true. And in any of these areas where we are losing the fight - God offers us two things 1) grace because Jesus already won for us and 2) the very Spirit that empowered Jesus to win.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Read Luke 4:1-13. The battle between good and evil is evident in the books we read, the movies we watch, and that's because it's a real struggle. This passage has two beings in a spiritual battle - Jesus and the devil. What have you previously been taught and what do you believe about the devil?

2 The devil uses a few tactics in temptation - and one is to **twist the truth**. Compare what God says in Luke 3:21-22 with how the devil begins his temptation in 4:3. Or look at how he quotes Scripture in 4:9-11. In what ways does the devil twist what is true?

3 The devil's second strategy is to **replace your faith**. Temptation is an attack on your relationship with God. In 4:5-7, how does the devil make the focus on one thing (power) to hide the real goal (worshipping someone other than God)?

4 When we face temptation, we can learn from Jesus. **Let God's Spirit be your strength**. Look again at verses 4:1 and notice how Jesus returns from the desert in 4:14. How does the Spirit provide strength for us in times of temptation?

5 The second strategy from Jesus is to **let God's Word be your wisdom**. Jesus quotes from the book of Deuteronomy three times in response. How does God's Word keep us focused and grounded in times of temptation? Has any part of God's Word helped you during a tempting time?

6 There is no foundation like God's love. When Jesus' finally gave his life on the cross to pay for our sins and save the world, look at what he says in Luke 23:46. The first thing Jesus heard after His baptism shaped the last thing He said on the cross. How can God's love for us as His children carry us through the hardest trials and temptations?

