



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?





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1 Read Luke 4:14-21. According to this moment, **Jesus is a champion for the desperate.** Based on this passage, does that line up with what you know of his ministry? Does Jesus deliver on what he claims? Does his church?

2 Read Luke 4:22-27. His hometown is impressed, but Jesus knows their hearts. Why do you think Jesus challenged them? Why do you think Jesus brought up these Old Testament stories? *(If time allows, look them up in 1 Kings 17 and 2 Kings 5).*

3 Read Luke 4:28-30. The congregation goes from all amazed to all enraged. But **human rejection can't stop divine redemption.** How does this story set the tone for Jesus' ministry in the rest of Luke and the apostle's ministry in the book of Acts? How should it inform our expectations as God's Kingdom ambassadors?

4 The congregation in Nazareth hated hearing about God's favor reaching Gentiles. They lived in a US vs THEM mentality. If only times had changed. How does being part of God's family tear down US vs THEM thinking?

5 Can you share a time someone loved you like you belonged - when others treated you like you didn't? Going forward, who are some people God is calling you to love like they belong?





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1 Read Luke 4:31-37. Jesus has authority that can't be dismissed. What stood out to you about this scene? What can we learn from Christ's encounter with this demon possessed man? (*for more insight, look at 1 John 3:8 and James 2:19*)

2 Read Luke 4:38-39. This is the second healing in Luke's gospel. Combined, what do these two healings tell us about Jesus' ministry? How is this woman's healing and response a picture of our Christian lives?

3 Read Luke 4:40-41. Jesus has power that can't be denied. Luke stresses that every single person who came for healing walked away healthy. How do we reconcile the power of Jesus with the pain and sickness we see in the world?

4 Read Luke 4:42-44. Jesus stays focused on his mission, spreading this "good news" to more people. For parallel to this scene, read **Matthew 8:14-17**. Matthew references **Isaiah 53:4-5**. How do sickness and sin relate to one another in these passages? What does it tell us about Jesus' death and resurrection? (*P.S. - check out 1 Peter 2:24*).

5 Read Luke 24:45-49 and Revelation 22:1-5. Our Champion fought for ultimate healing in an eternal Kingdom. Jesus gives us the same Spirit who empowered him, and Jesus promises a healing that Luke 4 only gives us a taste of. Finish by praying together - asking God for more healing today, and thanking God for his ultimate healing through Jesus.

