

Bible Study Teaching Plan for January 14, 2018
Luke 3:21-23 & 4:1-13 "The Tempter and Temptation"
Dr. Williamson

CREATE INTEREST

NOTE: If your group is still determining class goals for 2018, finalize these goals today (or as soon as possible this month). E-mail completed goals to bwilliamson@fbclewisville.org.

1. Present a brief review of last week's study of John the Baptist and his message of "repentance." SAY: The scripture says "while John was baptizing others, Jesus went down into the water to be baptized also." ASK: Why do you think Jesus went to be baptized by John? It certainly was NOT for repentance, since Jesus was sinless. Discuss. Possible answer: Jesus wanted to affirm John in his role as "preparing the way," and to give validity that John's baptism for repentance was in God's plan. Jesus' baptism was the official beginning of His earthly ministry. Read Luke 3:21-23.

SAY: After reporting God's affirmation from Heaven concerning Jesus (after the baptism), Dr. Luke interrupted the action to present the genealogy of Jesus. Then Luke resumes the narrative of what Jesus did next. Read Luke 4:1-2.

2. SAY: Today we are looking at the temptation of Jesus by Satan. Each of the four gospels report the good news of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. In Luke 4, we learn about Jesus' adversary, the devil, or Satan. We don't generally spend much time teaching about the devil. And it is correct to focus on Jesus. Today we study Luke 4:1-13, which is the biblical account of Satan and his temptation of Jesus.

3. ASK: As we begin, what do you know about Satan? What have you been taught? In other words, if your kids (or a new Christian) asked you, "Who is Satan?" what would you say? Discuss. Make a list on the marker board under the title: "What we know about Satan" (For ideas, see Study Guide, pg 65, regular print edition).

Answers could include the following: (This activity should take approximately 15-20 minutes). Comment on answers given, as needed, based on your understanding of Holy Scripture.

- Satan's name means "accuser"
- He is also called the devil; the tempter; and the prince of darkness;
- He is a fallen angel. He rebelled against God and God kicked him out of heaven. Satan wanted to take the place of God (Ezekiel 28:11-19).
- Revelation describes Satan as the great dragon (Rev. 12:7-9).
- Satan is against God and Jesus, and he does whatever he can to keep you/me/us away from God/Jesus. Satan wants to disrupt the lives of Christ-followers and keep Christians from living the way Jesus wants us to. He especially wants to keep Christians from being a witness for Jesus.
- Satan has already been defeated by Jesus (at the crucifixion/resurrection), but Satan doesn't want to admit defeat. Satan's ultimate defeat will be at Jesus' second coming, where Satan be thrown into the abyss (Rev. 20) at Jesus' return.
- Peter calls the devil a "roaring lion," seeking who he can devour (1 Peter 5:8).
- Satan is real, although he is spirit, and not physical.

- The devil cannot steal your salvation, once you've become a Christian, but he can steal our joy, and can make us miserable. He wants to keep us from winning anyone else to the Lord.
- Satan chooses the time to attack you, often when he thinks you are most vulnerable.
- Satan is a liar and deceiver (he tells half-truths to try and trick us).
- Jesus is greater, and more powerful than the devil (1 John 4:4).

GUIDE BIBLE STUDY

4. SAY: Immediately after Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Some wonder, "Why was it necessary for Jesus be tempted by Satan?" And "Why would the Spirit lead Jesus to be tempted?" ASK: How would you answer these questions? Discuss. Possible answer: Some say the temptation shows that Jesus was fully human. He was tempted, just like we are; therefore, he can identify with us, and show us the way out.

One commentator (McGee) said, "Automakers test cars before making them in mass to sell to the public. They test them to prove that they are worthy of buying." The commentator's idea was the God led Jesus to be "tempted" and "tested" in order to prove that Jesus would not/could not fail. That Jesus was and is worthy to be trusted.

5. Have volunteer re-read aloud Luke 4:1-4. Afterwards, point out that Satan's very first deception, back in Genesis, took place in the Garden of Eden, and it also involved food. ASK: Why do you think Satan went after Jesus with the temptation of food? Discuss. Possible answers: It worked on Eve/Adam, maybe it would work on Jesus, also. After all, Jesus was hungry after having not eaten for 40 days.

SAY: The people of Israel were expecting a Messiah who would be a powerful king, like King David. He would be someone who would provide for their needs, including food, and make Israel a powerful nation again. Jesus later identifies himself as "the Bread of Life." Satan was trying to tempt Jesus to move away from God's plan and timeline, and to use His powers for selfish things like food and possessions; for things that satisfy the needs of the body. Satan wanted Jesus to follow him, not God. In response to Satan's temptation, Jesus quoted from Deut. 8:3. Have volunteer read Deut. 8:3, comparing the two verses (Luke 4:4 "Man shall not live on bread alone.") SAY: Deut. 8:3 further clarifies that we don't leave by bread, but by everything that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." Jesus used God's word (the mouth of the Lord) to overcome the temptation of Satan.

6. SAY: Let's look at the second temptation. Have volunteer read Luke 4:5-8. ASK: What does this temptation reveal to us about Satan? Discuss. Possible answer: That Satan is a liar and deceiver. Satan doesn't "own" all of the earth. It's NOT his to give away to anyone. The world already belongs to Jesus, so Satan is lying. Satan is once again rebelling against God. He wants to be the one who is worshiped. That was not going to happen for Jesus. Once again, Jesus quotes scripture to defeat the temptation of Satan, Deut. 6:13, one of the 10 commandments.

7. SAY: Let's look at the third temptation. Have volunteer read Luke 4:9. ASK: Why do you think Satan wanted Jesus to throw himself down? Discuss. Our Commentary says that Satan was trying to destroy (kill) Jesus. What better way than for Jesus to do it himself? Remember, Satan is against God and Jesus, and he is against us, too. He wants to destroy us. He wants to destroy our lives.

8. Have volunteer re-read Luke 4:9-12. Note that once again, Jesus responds with scripture, Deut. 6:16.

APPLY TO LIFE

9. Read (or have volunteer read) Psalm 119:11. "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." ASK: How has memorized scripture helped you in life? Why would you recommend a new Christian memorize scripture? Discuss. Answers will vary. Read Luke 9:13 -- "When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time."

10. SAY: Satan left Jesus at this point, but that doesn't mean Satan gave up and quit. Satan kept working on Jesus throughout his ministry. Satan is still a worthy adversary trying to bring each of us down or away from God. In Jesus' earthly life, Satan continued working. At one point, using Judas Iscariot, Satan tried to kill Jesus. Satan THOUGHT he had won the victory at the cross. Instead, the Cross was Satan's defeat as God brought back Jesus from dead. Jesus is stronger and greater than Satan. And Jesus never gave into Satan's temptations. Jesus always did what God wanted Him to do. And if we allow Jesus to control our life, Jesus makes His resources available to us, too, via the Holy Spirit, so that we can also defeat the temptations of Satan in our lives.

11. Close in prayer (possibly the Lord's prayer), thanking God for delivering us from the evil one through Jesus, and asking Jesus to help us overcome temptation on a daily basis by prayer and spending time in God's word.