



# Jesus' Temptation

Luke 4:1-15, Matthew 4:4b

## GATHERING

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Evening Song** “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” [[www.hymnlyrics.org](http://www.hymnlyrics.org)]  
Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.
- **Hear the Story...**

## READING

- **Read Text aloud** [standing, sitting, walking – but don't go far away]
- **Re-read silently and consider the questions that follow...**

## RESPONDING

- **Why does the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into temptation?**
- **Who or what is the Devil in comparison to God?**
- **What is the significance of the three temptations?**
- **What is different about Jesus' third response?**

## SHARING

- **Have you experienced a “desert time” in your life?**
- **How do you deal with temptation?**
- **How do you calm yourself when you are afraid?**

## CLOSING

- **Grace/Benediction**

Luke 4:1-15

1 Jesus returned from the Jordan/ filled with the Holy Spirit,  
and she led him into the desert  
2 for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil.  
Jesus ate nothing during that time,  
at the end of which he was famished.

3 The Devil said to Jesus,  
"If you are God's Own, /command this stone to turn into bread."

4 Jesus answered,  
"Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.'  
“ ‘but on every utterance/ that comes from the mouth of God’ ” [Matt. 4:4b]

5 Then the Devil took Jesus up higher  
and showed him all the nations/ of the world in a single instant.

6The Devil said,  
"I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations;  
the power has been given to me/ and I can give it to whomever I wish.  
7Prostrate yourself in homage before me,/ and it will all be yours."

8 In reply, Jesus said,  
"Scripture has it:'You will worship the Most High God;  
God alone will you adore.'"

9 Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem,  
set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said,  
"If you are God's Own, /throw yourself down from here,  
10 for scripture has it,  
'God will tell the angels to take care of you;  
11 with their hands they'll support you,  
that you may never 'stumble on a stone.'"

12 Jesus said to the Devil in reply,  
"It also says,/ 'Do not put God to the test.' "

13 When the Devil had finished all this tempting,  
Jesus was left alone.

The Devil awaited another opportunity.

14 Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee,  
and his reputation spread throughout the region.

15 He was teaching in the Galilean synagogues,  
and all were loud in their praise.