



## DAY 1

**READ** Luke 4:1-2a.

Let's set the scene. Jesus is about 30 years old at this time. By now He lives and breathes the writings of the Old Testament. He's just been baptized in the Jordan river, is full of the Holy Spirit, and been led by the Spirit to be tested for his upcoming ministry. To us, it resembles our education, graduation, and finding a job. But let's not miss this – Jesus' temptation takes place under God's direction.

*Why do you think God would do this?*

*What would have happened if Jesus had NOT been full of the Holy Spirit?*

*What does this mean for your life?*

**JOURNAL** your thoughts.

## DAY 2

### The Test of Hedonism

**READ** Luke 4:2b-4.

Jesus has been fasting for 40 days. To most of us, a loaf of bread would have been welcome, but how did Jesus respond? The Scripture He quotes is from Deuteronomy 8:3: "...man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." Jesus was able to choose the right path in this instance because His relationship with God was so very strong. He knew without a doubt that God's priority wasn't His temporary comfort, but His eternal purpose.

**MAKE A LIST** of the times you were more interested in the "feel good" stuff rather than in God's purposes for your life.

*How can you recognize this attitude as you move forward?*

*Based on Jesus' example, how can you best face these tests?*

## DAY 3

### The Test of Individualism

**READ** Luke 4:5-8.

**PICTURE** a mob boss asking you to work for him. In return, he promises you control over a section of the city. Sure there's independence and freedom which may come with the position, but there's a cost as well.

*If Jesus had chosen the kingdoms of the world rather than the path of suffering and rejection, what would have been the cost?*

*Both are hard roads, but one leads to righteousness - one leads to death.*

Each day we have a choice: **Righteousness Road OR Death Road.**

*When are you tempted to say,*

**"This road is too difficult. I want to try the other one?"**

*How was Jesus able to choose such a hard road in such a weakened, vulnerable state? What can you do to put yourself in that kind of mindset?*

*How does drawing close to the Holy Spirit help us stay on the right path?*

## DAY 4

### The Test of Minimalism

**READ** Luke 4:9-12.

**"If you're the Son of God, prove it."**

*How is this attitude a sign of lacking faith?*

*Has this thought entered your mind?*

*"God, if you do this big thing for me, I'll believe you and have faith in you."*

*What's the minimum amount of faith needed to be right with God?*

*Do we sometimes test God in these things, too? How do you feel when God doesn't come through for you? Do you sometimes lose faith?*

*How does keeping in step with the Holy Spirit give us faith to*

*avoid the temptation to challenge God to prove something to us?*

Looking back over the past few days, **LIST** Jesus' spiritual practices which prepared Him for this testing period.

*Which of these practices are present in your life? Which are NOT?*

*What can you learn from Him and implement this week?*

**WRITE** down some next steps you can take this upcoming year.

**MAKE** a plan and put it on your calendar.

## DAY 5

**READ** Luke 4:13; Matthew 16:21-23; Matthew 27:41-42.

Satan wasn't done tempting Jesus. He waited until Jesus was face to face with the suffering of the cross.

*How did Jesus respond? How will you respond when you're tested?*

*Will you try to gain control? Will you have faith? Will you turn to God?*

*Will you ask the Holy Spirit to teach you?*

**PRAY:** God, You are good. Help me to be in harmony with You and the Holy Spirit. Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil.

I want to imitate what is good. I long to see Your face and hear Your voice.

I desire to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. Help me let go of my evil ways and cling to what is good.