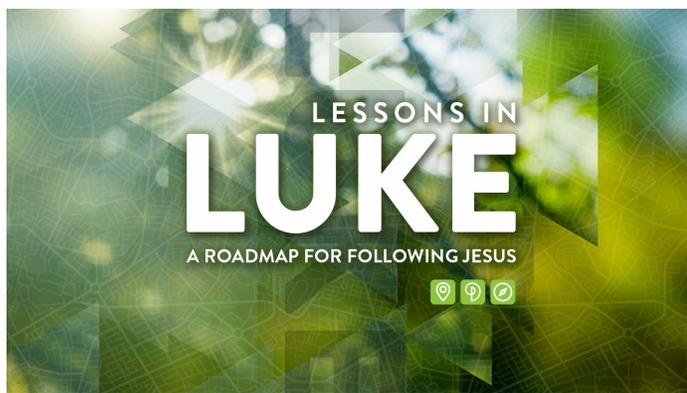


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Temptation

*April 11, 2021*

Do you trust God to get you through the tough times? We all tend to trust our own willpower when things get hard instead of relying on God. God doesn't expect perfection from us. The same God who forgives us gives us the strength to keep going.

## SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 4:1-13

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Jesus had been out in the wilderness for 40 days. It was rocky, barren, dry, blazing hot during the day, and frigid cold at night. Almost nothing—not even cactus—grows there. As the text says, Jesus goes to this wilderness right after he is baptized with the Holy Spirit. When he enters he is full of the Holy Spirit. That is important to note. Jesus goes in with the power of the Holy Spirit. Yet the devil shows up. It reared its ugly head to Jesus. By the time evil shows up Jesus had been in the wilderness a long time, he was hungry, thirsty, tired and weak. That's when a subtle, seductive, evil encounter finds Jesus. The devil knows exactly how to entice Jesus, so he asks "how about some fresh bread Jesus?"

How appealing it must have been to think of a nice warm piece of bread especially after not eating for 40 days. Jesus must have been so hungry! People often think that this temptation is about food. But it isn't about food. This temptation was much more subtle, it was way more dangerous than about having something to eat. It was about trust. The real question being asked was "Can you trust God?". Jesus Can you trust God when life gets incredibly difficult? Or do you want to take matters into your own hands?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever spent time in the desert? Share your experience. Imagine how Jesus endured 40 days in the wilderness with no food or drink.
- What does this story teach us about temptation?
- When have you been tempted to trust your own willpower instead of relying on God?
- How can we trust God, even when life gets difficult?

**APPLICATION:** This week, remind yourself daily that "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." God is with you, even when things get difficult, and that is worth celebrating!