

a way out ...

Think about the temptations that you often face. What do you think is the “way out” that God is showing to you? This could be something very simple, like: “don’t go around that person or that thing.”

Feel free to pray and ask God to help you overcome this temptation and to show you his “way out”. You may want to write a short prayer to God asking him to help you.

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JESUS & THE DEVIL

Matthew 4: 1-11

QUESTIONS



1. What did the voice from Heaven, God the Father, say about Jesus?

2. Jesus, who is God the Son, took on a human body and became like us. In his earthly body, could Jesus be tempted like we are tempted? _____

3. How was Jesus feeling after 40 days of fasting - not eating? _____

The First Temptation

4. Satan’s first temptation was to get Jesus to do what?

Does that sound like a really bad thing to do? _____

Sometimes the Devil’s temptations do not seem like a real bad thing to do. Often the Devil’s first temptations are not about doing something really bad. They may be

more about doing something other than what we should be doing. He may tempt you to watch a TV program when you should be doing your homework, cleaning your room or helping your mother or younger brother.

5. What did Jesus say he should be thinking about and wanting rather than just physical food?

What was Jesus going to put first in his life, food or God's words? Why? _____

What should we put first in our lives?

6. When Jesus said: *No! The Scriptures say, 'People need ... he was quoting the Bible verse found in Deuteronomy 8:3. That verse says:*

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, ... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
Deuteronomy 8: 3 NIV

When Satan tempts us, he uses lies and deception. He tells us to do things that our body may want and that may sound like fun or something that would make us feel good, but the end result is that it hurts us and those around us.

13. Does Jesus understand our struggles with temptations - having desires for and wanting things that we know we should not have? _____

How does he know what our temptations and struggles are like? _____

14. When Jesus was tempted, did he yield to the temptation and thereby sin and disobey God?

15. So what should we do when we are tempted and struggling. To whom should we go to find mercy, forgiveness, and help in our time of need?

APPLICATION

16. Read I Cor 10:13. What are three (3) truths in this verse that can help you understand and overcome temptations?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

11. What did Jesus say to the Devil?

What should we say to Satan when he offers us things that we know we should not have?

When Satan offers us things, the end result is death if we take them. Death to a happy life, to a good job, to a loving and lasting relationship in marriage.

The Bible says: *For the wages (end result) of sin is death, Romans 3:23*

When we worship, obey and serve God, he will give us everything we need for this life and for the next life - for eternity.

... No good thing will the LORD withhold from those who do what is right. Psalms 84: 11

Other Bible Verses on Overcoming Temptations

Hebrews 4: 14 - 16

12. Who is our “High Priest,” the one who has gone to Heaven and is praying for us, who died for us and rose again? _____

So if the Devil, Satan, is telling us lies, where can we go to find the truth? Where can we go to find out what God, who loves us, wants us to do and not to do?

If Jesus quoted the Bible when he was being tempted, do you think you should? _____

What was Jesus saying was more important to him than physical food, even though he was very hungry and had not eaten for 40 days? _____

Many godly people get up early in the morning to feed on the Bible, God’s word, before they even eat breakfast. Why do you think they do that and how does it help them? _____

The Second Temptation

7. Does the Devil know what the Bible says? _____

Can Satan and/or false Bible teachers take a Bible verse and twist it and try to make it sound like it is saying something that it is not really saying? _____

I think in this temptation the Devil is telling Jesus “If you the Son of God, prove it by jumping off of the top of this tall building, because the Bible says that God’s angels will catch you.” Sounds good doesn’t it. Just think how impressed people would be at the temple

when they saw Jesus jump off of the top of the temple and be caught by angels on his way down.

But it is a lie. God does not want us jumping off of a building to prove anything. That is not what that Bible verse is saying.

8. So what does Jesus tell Satan God wants him to do or not to do?

The verse Jesus quoted is found in the Bible in the book of Deuteronomy *Do not test the LORD your God Deut.6: 16*

Our job is not to “test God” to make God prove something to us or to others. Our job is not to tell God what he is supposed to be doing for us. Our job is:

to know what our loving heavenly father says,
to believe what God says in the Bible
and to obey God - to do what he says to do.

On the bottom of page 2 in this study, in Matthew 3:17, what had God already said to Jesus?

God has already told us in his word, the Bible, that if we trust in Jesus to save us from our sins, then we are his children.

We do not need to prove this to anyone. We just need to live like children of God by loving him, by giving him first place in our hearts and by obeying his words as found in the Bible.

The Third Temptation

9. In the third temptation, what did the Devil show to Jesus?

Can you imagine seeing all the money, wealth, food, pleasures, power and fame that the world has to offer?

10. Then what did the Devil say to Jesus?

Satan often tempts us to worship him by saying, I will give you: money, boyfriends or girlfriends, sexual pleasures, peace of mind through drugs, cars, houses, fame, if you will only bow down and worship me, if you will seek after these things and put these things ahead of God and God’s wonderful plans for your life.

When we seek these things in life instead of seeking God’s will and wonderful plan for our life, who are we really bowing down to and worshipping? _____