CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
FEBRUARY2021

Scripture Story: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages,* chapters 12, 13.

it is written



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keytext

"Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry."

(Luke 4:1, 2)

flashlight

"Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Savior took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured" (*The Desire of Ages,* p. 117).

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what do you think?

From the list below, check the top five temptations that you believe most teens would struggle to overcome.

____ buying clothes you don't need
____ wasting time with useless activities on the internet
____ eating junk food
____ lying to your parents
____ procrastinating on your homework
____ cheating on a test at school
____ gossiping and spreading rumors about someone else
____ other _____

did you know?

Learning, talent, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but, without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner won to Christ. On the other hand, if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts. God makes them channels for the outflowing of the highest influence in the universe" (E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church,* vol. 8, pp. 21, 22).

INTO THE STORY

"Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

"And the devil said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.'

"But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."'

"Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.'

"And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve."'

"Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: "He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you," and, "In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."'

"And Jesus answered and said to him, 'It has been said, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."'

"Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

"Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

"So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.'"

(Luke 4:1-19)

OUT OF THE STORY

Why was Jesus tempted by Satan at such an important time in His earthly life, right after His baptism and before He began His public ministry?

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Read Genesis 3:6. What three avenues did Satan use to tempt Eve in the Garden of Eden?

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Read Matthew 4:3-10. What was similar in the temptation of Jesus and the temptation of Eve?

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Read 1 John 2:16. In what ways are the temptations that we face today similar to the ones that Jesus overcame? How can we follow Jesus' example?

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What was the source of strength for Jesus when He was tempted? How did He resist temptation?

_____

_____

How do you use the Bible as a source of strength when you are tempted? What specific Bible promises do you know that help you say no when you are feeling tempted?

_____

_____

punch lines

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world" **(1 Peter 5:8, 9).**

"And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God" **(Romans 6:13).**

"Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" **(Isaiah 53:12).**

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work" **(Revelation 22:12).**

further insight

"Christ withstood the test upon appetite, upon the love of the world, and upon that love of display which leads to presumption" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages,* p. 116).

"'The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe' (Proverbs 18:10, NKJV). Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages,* p. 131).

connectingtolife

Sabbath

Read Genesis 3:1-7.

Christ is our example in overcoming temptation. He received His power to resist temptation from the Holy Spirit. Our source of strength is also found in maintaining a strong connection with God through the Holy Spirit.

"He [the Holy Spirit] filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. [The Holy Spirit was] sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children" (Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs, The Holy Spirit).

In reading Genesis 3:1-7, did you notice any similarities between Adam and Eve's temptation in the garden, the temptations we face, and the ones aimed at Jesus?

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Sunday

Read John 14:26.

After reading the *Into the Story* section, complete the *Out of the Story* questions. Satan attacked Jesus after 40 days of fasting. Why do you think Satan tempted Jesus while He was in a weakened state from fasting 40 days in the desert? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

What do you think are some of the benefits of fasting?

_____

_____

Jesus met each of Satan's temptations with a clear "It is written." What Bible passages have you memorized to reference when you face temptations and trials?

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_____

Jesus had a deep knowledge of the Old Testament writings of people such as Moses and Isaiah. He knew God's Word and that was why He was able to overcome.

Monday

Read John 16:13.

This week's *Key Text* states that Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit when He entered into the wilderness to be tempted. What do you think it means to be full of the Holy Spirit?

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From your reading in John 16:13, what role does the Holy Spirit play when we face temptation?

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_____

The Holy Spirit didn't leave Jesus when He faced a trying time; the Holy Spirit was right there with Jesus, keeping all His faculties sharp and bringing to His memory Scripture passages that helped Him overcome Satan's temptations.

Tuesday

Read James 1:13.

Now read this week's *Flashlight* quotation again.

When Jesus came to pay our penalty for humanity's sin, He had to give up some things. For instance, Jesus never called on His awesome power to get Him out of trouble, not even when He faced Satan himself.

What does the *Flashlight* quotation tell you about how much God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit love us?

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Wednesday

Read Isaiah 53:12.

Take a look at this week's *Punch Lines*. Which one of the verses speaks to you right now?

Did you know that Isaiah wrote his verse about Jesus almost 700 years before Jesus was born? Jesus' victory over the temptations of Satan was predicted centuries before Jesus walked the earth.

Do you think Satan knew of Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus? Explain.

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Since Satan was unable to overcome Jesus, to whom has he turned his attention (1 Peter 5:8, 9)? Choose and memorize a *Punch Line* scripture that will help you stand against Satan's temptations.

Thursday

Read James 4:7, 8.

What tips can you take from these verses to help you stand for God at all times? On the lines below, list three practical steps that can help you overcome temptation.

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Friday

Read John 14:16-18.

Is there an area of your life in which you feel powerless to resist Satan? Is there a temptation binding you? Why not pause right now and ask God to help you overcome that temptation.

this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages (or *Humble Hero*), chapters 12, 13.

**Humble Hero* is a special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages,* created by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companionbooks#.URIhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.

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