

The Discipler's Commentary
Answer Outline for the Discipler
Luke 4

4:1-13 – The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness:

3-4 – The temptation to place His personal physical needs before God's spiritual plan

- *This is an excellent time to discuss “the 40s” in the Old Testament. Show how Moses was on the mount for 40 days, Elijah fasted 40 days, and the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. The discipler might also want to discuss the wisdom of attempting to fast 40 days. Make sure the disciple understands how Moses and Elijah represent “the Law and the Prophets.”*
- *This is also an excellent place to bring up the concept of being “led by the Spirit.” Separate for the disciple how Scripture uses the phrase and how Christians tend to use the phrase casually. Ask the question, “How does one know when he or she is being led by the Spirit,” and in what context would this take place? Bring in the concept of being led by the Spirit as opposed to be led by the flesh or by the devil.*
- *Make sure to mention that part of this temptation was for Jesus to use His position (the Son of God) and power (divine) to meet His personal needs. Have the disciple apply this temptation to the workplace.*
- *Another point to make is that God did not overcome Jesus' temptations for Him. It was up to Jesus Himself to overcome temptation. God has done His part by giving us the strength through the Holy Spirit to recognize temptation and overcome it. It is up to each of us to do the overcoming.*
- *And lastly, help the disciple to see and articulate how Jesus exhibited love by overcoming this temptation.*

5-8 – The temptation to achieve power & glory from the world rather than through trusting God

- *Help the disciple discern the issues here, especially in regard to the lure of the world concerning things, wealth, prosperity, power and fame.*
- *Help the disciple discern the temptation to love things more than people. How does this relate to the desire of men to be admired by other men and desired by women? How does this temptation fit into that scenario?*
- *Make sure the disciple understands who it is that is offering to Jesus the things of the world. Does God offer the “things of the world”?*
- *Ensure that the disciple understands clearly that there are many false teachers in the world of Christendom who acquiesce to this temptation, and teach their followers to do likewise.*
- *Show the disciple how Satan is trying to get Jesus to bypass the cross, and how alluring that temptation might be in light of the fact that Jesus knows very clearly what it will be like to suffer on the cross.*
- *Show the disciple how Jesus' love for the lost helped Him overcome the temptation to bypass the cross. Make sure the disciple understands that there is no such thing as experiencing the glory of God without the suffering, sacrifice and shame that goes before it.*

9-12 – The temptation to misapply Scripture in order to justify an outcome

- *Make sure the disciple understands the subtleties of Satan's inappropriate use of Scripture. Did Satan quote the Scripture accurately and completely? More importantly, did Satan apply the Scripture correctly? (Have the disciple look up Psalm 91:11-12.) Did Satan take the Scripture out of context? The point here is to help the disciple learn discernment when it comes to applying the word of God.*
- *Show the disciple how subtle this temptation is, especially the part that miracles play in changing a person's heart. Help the disciple determine how Jesus overcame this temptation by properly applying the word of God.*
- *Perhaps one of the most important concepts in this temptation is the Scripture Jesus uses to overcome the temptation. What does it mean to “put the Lord your God to the test”? Help the disciple discern the difference between putting God to the test and trusting God for the outcome? Is motive a factor here?*

- *Help the disciple see how love played a role in all the three temptations. How strong was Jesus' love for a lost world that would enable Him to fast for 40 days and then overcome all the temptations to alleviate His suffering? What's the lesson for Christians here?*

4:14-44 – The teaching and healing ministry of Jesus begins: it takes place mostly in Galilee

4:16-30 – Jesus' teaching at the synagogue in Nazareth, His home town

- *The disciple needs to know what a pivotal point this occasion is concerning Jesus' ministry. It's always helpful to have the disciple look up for himself the Scripture Jesus is quoting. Introduce the disciple to the concept of "messianic prophecies"; that is, Psalms or prophecies that point directly to the Messiah. Include in that context the incidences with Elijah and Elisha who ministered in the apostate Northern Kingdom of Israel. (Having the disciple find the passages in the OT helps them become familiar with it.)*
- *Make sure the disciple understands why Jesus' listeners were so enraged at His teaching, and why "no prophet is welcome in his hometown."*

4:31-37 – Jesus' teaching and healing at the synagogue in Capernaum, His headquarters

- *The key words in this incident are "authority" and "power." Help the disciple understand the difference. Help the disciple see why Jesus' teachings were rejected in Nazareth but accepted in Capernaum.*
- *Point out to the disciple the words that came out of the possessed man. What is significant about them, and who is speaking them? Why are these words so ironic? Ask what is significant about the name "the Holy One of God"? Ask the disciple why Jesus told the spirit to "Be quiet...."*

4:38-44 – Jesus' ministry in Simon Peter's home

- *Ask the disciple what we learn about Peter from the experience in Peter's home?*
- *Have the disciple read verse 40. How does this verse apply to the church?*
- *Impress upon the disciple the need go to "a secluded place." Why did Jesus need to go there and what did He do?*