

Lent in Luke

Jesus Tested

Luke 4:1-13

Welcome

Have you ever got something that you thought you really needed but later regretted it?

Worship

Cornerstone - Cornerstone - Hillsong Live

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>

Word

For context read Luke 3: 21,22 and scan the rest of the chapter.

Q. At what point in his ministry was Jesus led into the desert? (You may want to draw attention that in Matthew and Mark's account begin with 'then' and 'at once' respectively.)

Q. Why did Jesus go into the desert?

Q. What can we learn from this?

Q. Why do you think Luke includes a genealogy between the baptism and the wilderness experience?

Read Luke 4:1-13

Q. What were the nature of the three temptations recorded?

Q. These temptations were similar to those experienced by the Israelites in the desert (cf Ex16:1-3, 32:7,8 and 17:1-7). What is Luke trying to demonstrate to his readers (Hebrews 4:14-15)?

Q. Do we face similar temptations? Are you able to give any examples?

Q. Examine Satan's methods and Jesus's responses.

How can this help us to recognise and resist temptation?

Q. What does the last of these tests teach us about learning and applying scripture?

Witness

What a friend we have in Jesus

Modern: Pete James

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDe687sMxN4I>

Traditional:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2skxuowcaY>

Use this to lead into a time of prayer for new groups starting up after half-term remembering Alpha, potential new house groups and new courses starting at The Branch.

Lent in Luke

Jesus Sorrowful

Luke 13:31-36

Welcome

Can you think of a time when you ignored the advice of someone else. Why? What happened?

Worship

https://sonichits.com/video/Keith_Routledge/Living_Under_the_Shadow_of_His_Wing

Use this song as an opportunity to praise God for his love and care for each of us.

Word

Luke 13:31-36

Read the passage

Note: it is easy to stereotype all pharisees as ‘bad guys’ but we know of some (Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, Gamaliel, who were not opposed to Jesus). Whether these pharisees were acting out of genuine concern or trying to frighten Jesus is hard to tell.

Q. How does this temptation differ from those in the previous study?

Q. How would you have reacted to what the pharisees said?

Q. How did Jesus respond?

Q. What enabled Jesus to confidently respond in this way?

Q. How do you respond to those who challenge your convictions?

Q. How can his example help us to stand firm when faced with challenges or threats from those opposed to us?

Q. What insight do these verses give into how Jesus views the purpose of his death?

Witness

Use this link to listen to the testimony from the leader of one of GLOs partners (GLO is one of our mission partners) towards the bottom of the page

<https://www.greatlakesoutreach.org/people/inspirational-leaders/ephraim-ngendakuriyo/>

Now pray for the organisation he leads: Together for Development

<https://www.greatlakesoutreach.org/burundi-and-beyond/our-partners-in-burundi/together-for-development-birashoboka/>

(Note you may want to summarise this prior to the meeting)

Lent in Luke

Jesus warning

Luke 13:1-9

Welcome

Have you tried to grow anything from a seed? What was the result?

Worship

The cross stands (Worship Central Lyric video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxWcRX91NWY>

Word

To get a context for the passage get everyone to have a look at the preceding chapter (Luke 12) (paragraph headings will be enough)

Q. Can you try and sum up the mood and direction in Jesus's ministry at this point? What is his emphasis?

Read Luke 13:1-5

Q. Where were Jesus and his early disciples from and where were they headed?

Q. Why do you think some of those present told Jesus about this story? How would you/they have expected Jesus to respond? (an open question – possibly indignation? delaying his journey? lead a rebellion against Pilate?)

Q. How did he respond?

Q. What point is trying to make?

Q. Why do you think Jesus gives a second example to make the same point?

Read the parable (v 6-9)

Q. Who or what is represented by:

- the fig tree?
- the owner of the fig tree?
- The gardener?

Q. What does Jesus want us to learn:

- a) about ourselves?
- b) about him?

Witness

Q. In what ways can we bear the fruit in keeping with repentance?

You may want to gently read through the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and allow individuals to respond in their own hearts, giving thanks as well as identifying areas that need digging around and fertilising.