

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 4

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Day 2- Luke 4:1-12

1. What is the Holy Spirit doing in verses 1 and 2?

2. What in verse 2 shows Jesus' humanity?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Phil 2:6-7 "[Christ Jesus], who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;(NIV) Instead, he gave up his divine privilege; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."(NLT)

James 1:13 "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one."

-What do you learn about temptation from the verse in James?

-How do these verses show that Jesus felt the full force of temptation as a human being?

3. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness; it was God's will that Jesus be hungry and tempted. Keeping this in mind, what was the devil really tempting Jesus to at the heart level in verse 3?



What circumstances tempt you to trust in your own plan instead of God's? What causes you to doubt God's love and care for you? In what ways are you tempted to desire physical, material things over Jesus?

4. By offering to give all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus right then, what is the devil tempting Jesus to avoid that he came to earth to do?

-What would have been the outcome of that?



How are you tempted to be impatient with God's plan for you? What are you willing to compromise to get what you want? Do you look at suffering as a roadblock instead of a pathway? Are you tempted to fear the future instead of trusting in God and his plan?

5. What does verse 7 reveal Satan wanted more than anything?

6. How does Satan change tactics in verses 10 and 11?



How are you tempted to presume upon God, or to put it another way, to take advantage of his grace and provision?

Day 3- Luke 4:1-13

7. According to verse 2, Satan was tempting Jesus for 40 days. What kind of physical condition was Jesus in during that time?

-What does that tell you about one of Satan's strategies?

8. Jesus had just been publically anointed with the Holy Spirit and heard God the Father speak his love and approval over him. Why should we especially be on guard after a spiritual high point in our life?

9. According to verse 13, Satan left only after he had done what?

Digging Deeper: Read the following Scriptures:

Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 2:18 "For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

-Do you really believe that Jesus has been tempted in every way you are?

-What does it mean to you to understand that Jesus has been tempted in every way?

10. What does Jesus show by quoting scripture in the face of temptation?



The Bible tells us that Satan is a liar, deceiver and a schemer. He doesn't fight fair; he's cunning and calculating. On our own we don't stand a chance against these tactics. We need the truth of God's word. 1 John 2:14 says, "...the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one." Only divine truth can reveal the lies, deception and schemes of Satan. As we wield the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word, Paul says we accompany that with praying at all times in the Spirit (Eph. 6:17-18).

This is what we see Jesus doing—fighting Satan with God's word and prayer. Jesus is our supreme example, and more than that, he is also our substitute. He resisted Satan flawlessly. He never slipped up, he never compromised, and he never yielded. We have the peace and joy of knowing we can rest in his perfect work on our behalf when we fail and fall to temptation.

- ❖ The Bible talks about resisting the devil in terms of warfare. Do you live and think in the reality that you are operating in enemy territory— alert with weapons ready?

- ❖ What are the weak areas in your life that Satan targets? What are the lies he tells you that you tend to believe?

- ❖ Get prepared to fight against the temptation that Satan throws at you by making this weak area part of your daily prayer life. Find some verses that you can have on hand that fight the lies and deception that Satan uses against you. Write them here:

Day 4- Luke 4:14-30

11. What was Jesus' priority in his ministry as shown in verses 15-16 and verses 31, 43-44 as well?

Scholar's Note: "[Synagogues] existed primarily for instruction in the Scriptures. In a synagogue Sabbath service, a passage from the Old Testament would be read, followed by a teacher explaining its meaning to the congregation." ¹

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

Isaiah 11:2 "And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."

-How does this verse explain some of what it meant that the Spirit was upon Jesus?

12. The portion of Isaiah Jesus chose to read was a well-known Messianic prophecy. Verse 18 summarizes what Jesus came to do. What are the metaphors in verse 18 that describe the desperate condition of sinners in need of rescue?

Digging Deeper: Read the following Scriptures and explain the spiritual nature of being poor, captive, blind and oppressed.

Isaiah 64:6a "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment."

Poor-

2 Timothy 2:25b-26 "God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their sense and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will."

John 8:34 "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."

Captive-

Jeremiah 5:21 "Hear this O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not."

2 Corinthians 4:4 "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Blind-

Matthew 23:2-4 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger."

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Oppressed-

13. As the people waited to hear what his teaching on the scripture reading would be, what did Jesus proclaim? (v.21)

14. Imagine hearing this prophecy many times, always taught and spoken about as something in the future. What would it have been like to hear Jesus say it was being fulfilled now?

15. In the space of a few minutes describe the change in the people's demeanor toward Jesus in verses 22, 28-29.

16. Matthew tells us that Jesus did not do many miracles in Nazareth because of their unbelief. What was so offensive to them? (vs.23-27)

Day 5- Luke 4:31-44

17. What terrified the demons in verse 34 and 41?
18. Jesus' physical power over the natural and supernatural world demonstrated that he had the power to save people spiritually. How did Jesus physically fulfill in verses 31-44, the prophecy from Isaiah to...

-Proclaim good news to the poor-

-Proclaim liberty to the captives and set the oppressed free-

-Give recovery of sight to the blind-

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 3095-3096). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition. MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 3094-3095). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

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