

LIFEgroups

OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

What are some humorous excuses people give for foolish, or even outright wrong, behavior?

DIG

Have three different people read the parts of narrator, Satan, and Jesus from **Matthew 4:1-11**. (See reading guide on the side of this page as a sample, or make copies and let readers use this guide.)

How did Jesus get into this situation of temptation?

What human frailties did Satan play on in his temptation of Jesus?
How are those characteristics still seen in people today?

What was Satan's overall goal?
What is Satan's overall goal today?

What resources did Jesus call upon in his resistance to Satan's call?

What was the outcome of this face-off between Jesus and The Tempter?

APPLY

As a group, make a list of three strategies that are powerful weapons for the defeat of Satan.

Talk about ways these strategies can be implemented in your homes, workplaces, and social activities.

What did you learn about yourself when you resisted Satan's temptation?
What did you learn about God?
What did you learn about Satan?

When you failed to resist a temptation, what benefit came from it by God's grace? Did you grow in some way? Learn something important?
Describe what God's grace brought you.

Take time to recommit in prayer to a life of refusing to bow to Satan's desires. Let each group member say their own prayer aloud or agree with their 'Amen'.

Reading Guide

Matthew 4:1-11 for 3 Readers

Narrator: Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said,

Satan: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Narrator: ⁴ Jesus answered,

Jesus: "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Narrator: ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

Satan: ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Narrator: ⁷ Jesus answered him,

Jesus: "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Narrator: ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

Satan: ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Narrator: ¹⁰ Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Narrator: ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.